



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • APRIL 8, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION



Online application process for CUET begins
CUET will provide a single-window opportunity to students seeking admission to any central university across the country. From this academic session, CUET will be held for admission to UG programmes in all UGC-funded central universities. Students can fill in the application form on cet.samarth.ac.in. The test will have MCQs based on the content of class 12 NCERT textbooks. There will be negative marking for incorrect answers (0.25 for each wrong answer)

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IMRAN LOSES NO-TRUST PLOT

Pakistan SC unanimously strikes down decision to reject no-confidence motion against PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN a landmark verdict, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously struck down National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri's decision to reject a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, levelling the playing field which could result in the premier's exit.

Suri had on April 3 dismissed the no-trust motion moved by the Opposition — when the ruling coalition had visibly lost its majority — claiming it was tied to a foreign plot to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Chief Justice Bandial, who is heading a five-member bench comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Mohammad Ali Mazhar Miankhal, Munib Akhtar and Jamal Khan Mandokhel, declared the deputy speaker's ruling unconstitutional. The five-member bench also declared dissolution of the parliament as unconstitutional.

The bench restored Parliament and declared the advice by the prime minister to President Alvi to dissolve the House as unconstitutional. The court ordered the speaker to call a Parliament session on Saturday at 10 am to restart the process of the no-confidence vote.

The court's judgment was

broader than expected after the chief justice said earlier they would only rule on the legality of the no-confidence motion being blocked. By upholding constitutional propriety instead of giving any leeway to the ruling party's opportunism, the higher judiciary showed its strength of character and independence. That the military establishment had swung away from Imran would have weighed on the judicial minds when the bench arrived at the 5-0 verdict against Imran's machinations.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Bandial had remarked that the deputy speaker's ruling was prima facie a violation of Article 95 of the country's Constitution.

In his first reaction, Imran tweeted, "I have called a cabinet mtg tomorrow as well as our parl party mtg; & tomorrow evening I will address the nation. My message...is I have always & will continue to fight for Pak till the last ball."

As for Shehbaz Sharif, head of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-N, who is expected to be the next PM, he said the SC verdict has saved Pakistan and the constitution.

"Democracy is the best revenge! Jiya Bhutto! Jiya Awam! Pakistan Zindabad," said Bilawal Bhutto, chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party.



Recruitment for govt posts may get delayed

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AFTER a gap of close to two years, the state government has started calling for applications to fill a large number of posts in several departments which have been lying vacant. Yet, the process will now be delayed further as the Administrative Reforms Commission - 2 (ARC-2), which is stressing on abolishing some posts in the

government sector; has to submit its report. The delay will continue to affect services for the citizens, while increasing the burden on the existing staff.

The state government had stopped recruitments for various reasons, including the pandemic that had impacted the revenue collection. Several departments, including those which directly deal with the

7.2 lakh	Number of sanctioned posts
4.6 lakh	Number of people working
2.6 lakh	Number of vacancies

people, were functioning with a much-reduced staff strength. This resulted in delays in im-

plementing various schemes. CS Shadakshari, president, Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, said the sanctioned posts are 7.2 lakh, of which 2.6 lakh are vacant. "One can imagine the burden on the existing staff. At least 40,000 posts called by various departments in the past are before courts, and until courts give their nod, these posts cannot be filled," he said. **P5**

PUII TIMETABLE OUT, EXAMS FROM APRIL 22

After much deliberations and revisions, the Department of Pre-University Education has released the final timetable for the second Pre-University board examinations. The examinations across the state will now begin on April 22 and end on May 18 | **P2**

Despite court relief, Aakar stopped again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi, Bengaluru

AAKAR Patel, former chairman of the Amnesty International, India, was stopped again from travelling to the United States at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, late on Thursday night, though a Delhi metropolitan magistrate's court earlier in the day allowed him to travel abroad.

The court directed the CBI director to apologise to Patel for a lookout circular (LOC) issued against him by the agency, which barred him from boarding a US-bound flight from Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Ordering the CBI to withdraw the LOC, the court said a written apology from the CBI director acknowledging the lapse by his subordinate would go a long way in healing his wounds.

Despite the speaking order, Patel was stopped at the immigration counter at Bengaluru late at night as the LOC had not been lifted till then.

Patel tweeted around 10.30 pm on Thursday, "Have been stopped at immigration again, CBI has not taken me off their lookout circular." Legal experts said that the problem could be because of the delay in the court order reaching officials at the airport. **P10**



Sri Dharmarayaswamy Temple in Bengaluru's Thigalarapete being spruced up ahead of the Karaga festival, on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR T

Karaga, festival of harmony, from today

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU is gearing up for a full-fledged Karaga festival, which is a symbol of communal harmony, this time after two years of muted celebrations because of the Covid pandemic. The 11-day festivities will begin from Friday at the famous Sri Dharmarayaswamy Temple at Thigalarapete (Kalyanapur) in Bengaluru.

Even as communally divisive hijab, halal and azaan rows have been rocking the state, moulvis from Masthan Saab Dargha visited Dharmarayaswamy Temple and extended a formal invite for the Karaga procession to visit the dargha on April 16.

"This has been the tradition. Like how Karaga procession touches various temples, including Anjaneya Swamy tem-

ples in all four directions of the city, it will visit the dargha too. Karaga is celebrated for the wellbeing of humanity of the entire world (loka kalyana), irrespective of which community people belong to," said Dr K Lakshmana, a former trustee of Dharmarayaswamy

Temple and president of South India Agnikula Vahnikula Kshathriya Mahasanga. **P2**



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2

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Timetable final, PU II exam from April 22

After much deliberations and revisions, the Department of Pre-University Education has released the final timetable for the second PU board examinations. The examinations will now begin on April 22 and end on May 18.

- APRIL 22** - Logic, Business Studies
APRIL 23 - Mathematics, Education
APRIL 25 - Economics
APRIL 26 - Hindustani Music, Psychology, Chemistry, Basic Maths
APRIL 27 - Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Urdu, Sanskrit, French
APRIL 28 - Kannada, Arabic
MAY 4 - Geography, Biology
MAY 5 - Information Technology, Retail, Automobile, Healthcare, Beauty and Wellness
MAY 6 - English
MAY 10 - History, Physics
MAY 12 - Political Science, Statistics
MAY 14 - Sociology, Electronics, Computer Science
MAY 17 - Optional Kannada, Accountancy, Geology, Home Science
MAY 18 - Hindi

JEE (MAIN) DEFERRED BY ALMOST TWO MONTHS

The National Testing Agency has postponed sessions one and two of the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) after concerns were raised over exam dates clashing with the board exams. JEE (Main) 2022 session one will take place from June 20 to June 29 while session 2 will take place between July 21 and July 30.

DC's office asks govt to revise or stop its land-related schemes

Govt schemes, subsidies contradict with many other rules & High Court orders: Official

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WORRIED with the rising number of applications seeking permission to approve unauthorised works on government lands, officials from the Bengaluru Urban district office have asked the government to either stop schemes or subsidies.

The deputy commissioner's office every day gets many applications from citizens seeking compensation for crop loss or for legalising their unauthorised buildings or crops grown on government lands.

Over the last two years, the DC's office has received applications pertaining to Form 53, 57, 94-C and 94-CC.

It has rejected 4,263 applications under Form 53, 3,809 un-



Many applications were pending before the DC for last two years and all of them have been rejected in one go as they amount to encroachment. While the government is talking of clearing encroachments and recovering government lands, it has also created such forms to legalise these illegalities

Senior official

der Form 57, 4,007 under Form 94-C and 9,987 under 94-CC.

For ms 53 and 57 are for seeking permission to authorise cultivation done unauthorised on government lands. Since there is no scope for further land allocations, applications are filed before the DC to permit the lands in the names of farmers cultivating them. Similar is the case with applications filed under forms 94-C and 94-CC where

buildings have been built illegally and work is continuing from the lands.

"Many applications were pending before the DC for last two years and all of them have been rejected in one go as they amount to encroachment. While the government is talking of clearing encroachments and recovering government lands, it has also created such forms to legalise these illegalities. We are requesting the gov-

ernment to stop such forms and applications. We have sought reforms in the process for clarity among government agencies and also citizens," said a senior official seeking anonymity.

Officials from the revenue department said this step will reduce the revenue earned from applications and penalties enforced, but in the long run it will be beneficial for developmental works.

"The government schemes and subsidies contradict with many other government and High Court orders. It becomes difficult for us on the ground to manage such situations. It is better if the government revises these schemes and takes a relook at them," the official from the DC's office said.



VACAY MODE ON

Kids make the best use of their summer vacation by cycling on a sultry Thursday in Bengaluru. The city has been seeing a steady rise in temperature | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

An exclusive child-friendly space takes shape in KSR rail station

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IN line with the Railway Board's policy to have child-friendly spaces at major railway stations in India, the first such space for Karnataka will make its debut this weekend at KSR Railway Station. It has been readied on Platform 1 with finishing touches being given.

Called 'Kushi Hub', the 600 sqft space has been handed over by Railways to the anti-trafficking unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF), 'Nanhe Paristey' as well as NGOs Child Line India and International Justice Mission to make it a safe place for children. Installed with CCTV cameras, it will be monitored 24x7 with staff present throughout with easy access to it from the third entry.

"Toys, books, pantry, toilets and good seating are among the facilities that will be provided here. A key objective behind it is to provide a posi-



(Left) The interiors of 'Kushi Hub', the 600 sqft space, at the city's KSR Railway Station; An artist gives finishing touches to the centre

itive environment and healthy space for children which would make them feel at home and open up about the troubles they are facing," a source added.

At present, children rescued at railway stations are taken to the station master's room or any spare room available as they cannot be taken to a police station, another source said. "These are usually small, dingy rooms and do not put any kid at ease," the source elaborated.

Alok Kumar, Inspector General and Principal Chief Security Commissioner, RPF, South Western Railway said, "It will mark SWR's first dedicated space for counselling children rescued by RPF, including victims of child trafficking. It is a great initiative for proving psycho-social support and counselling to children in need of care and protection who come in contact with Railways."

According to data supplied by RPF, 581 children were rescued in 2021 with 304 of them being victims of trafficking.

Karaga fest organisers expect 6 lakh attendees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

V Jnanendra Vahnikulda Gowda will carry the Karaga this year too, as he has been doing for the last 11 years. The organisers are expecting at least six lakh people to witness the Draupadi Devi Karaga Shaktiotsava and Sri Dharmarayaswamy Maha Rathotsava as the procession rolls out of Dharmarayaswamy Temple at 12.30 am on April 16, the Chaitra Purnima Day as per Hindu calendar. It will cover 38 km before winding up.

Puducherry CM N Rangaswamy, who is a Vahnikulda Kshathriya, will be the chief guest. Lakshmana said, "It is believed that those who witness Karaga will be relieved of their misdeeds for seven births. The mythology has it that Draupadi descends on Earth for three days a year. On April 16, the Aadishakthi Draupadi Devi will be invoked in the pujari's body. The ban-

gle-cladding ceremony will be held between 2 pm and 3 pm. Arjuna Kalyanotsava, Draupadi's marriage to Arjuna in the Godhuli lagana, will be performed in the evening. After various rituals, the 'Karaga Utsava' will begin. KaRaGa is the abbreviation for Kaiyalli muttade, RUNDadalli dharasi, GATHisuvudu — which liter-

ally means carrying the deity on the head without touching it and stepping forward. The top most part of the Karaga (agra bhaga) is considered as the position of Vishnu, and it will carry the Kalasha, chathri (umbrella), shanku (conch) and chakra (wheel). The neck position, or kantasthaana, is the position of Lord Shiva, which will have damaruga (drums) and trishula (trident). The thala sthaana is considered to be the position of Brahma, while the middle portion will have lemons, considering it to be maathru gana (the position of the Goddess)."



PICTURE: VINOD KUMAR T

Karnataka tops chart in BNPL usage in country

ENS @ Bengaluru

A survey released by ZestMoney, a Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) platform, has revealed Karnataka as the top state in BNPL usage in India. According to the findings by ZestMoney, the platform saw a 2.5x increase in transactions in the state over the last year. Of this increase, the platform also found that women consumers had increased 2.5 times while men consumers had increase twice as much as before. The findings also showed that new customers had come in mostly from the 24 to 27 year age group. Also, women users had tended towards upgrading electronics and buying lifestyle products while men spent mostly on fashion and wardrobes.

The platform allows users to split bills to pay later, similar to EMI payments with little to no costs added. Findings from ZestMoney also revealed that the payment option is popular not only in Tier-1 cities but across the state. The payment option was popular amongst users in the state to pay for electronics, clothing, edtech services, travel and home decor.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

08th April: Virgo is my sign of the day, so it's time to pay this wonderful sign the attention it deserves. Virgoan people have a reputation for being hard-working and efficient. If you know a Virgo really well you'll see that, deep inside, they're rather insecure and they need applause and appreciation - and that's why you need to pamper them.

ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr. 20)

Takes special note of interesting news that comes to light in an indirect way, or as a result of your past creative efforts. My advice to you now is to act in accord with your passionate Arian qualities, free from all those social and family pressures that so often hold you back.

TAURUS

(Apr. 21 - May 21)

You now seem to be in a position to drive a hard bargain and break any deadlocks that have mired family and domestic partnerships. Clear up such issues this week rather than next. As a matter of interest, relationships with children and younger family members benefit most.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)

You now know what troubles partners and close friends, but must also understand just how much you can do to help them. This is a moment when you must put yourself out for others. In point of fact, one delicate planetary alignment says that this is a fine day for self-sacrifice!

CANCER

(June 22 - July 23)

The planetary aspects which now confront your sign combine influences which are profound and long-term with those which are extraordinary and electrifying in a day-to-day sense. You are therefore about to turn the corner in one of your personal involvements.

LEO

(July 24 - Aug. 23)

Perhaps you should now consider casting your net much wider than in the past and look at those tasks which allow you to move on with a minimum of fuss. Flexibility is required at work if you go with the flow and bend with the wind, you will win the day.

VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You may be more interested in making new friends than in pursuing close and intimate partnerships. The reason is that you may have more pleasure if you leave yourself open to unusual invitations. That may mean that you have to put aside some of your normal caution!

LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

All the important arguments and events which have implied the existence of some sort of order in your professional and home affairs may now be revealed as little more than harmless window-dressing. The real fun is about to begin.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

The fact that you have two planetary rulers - Mars and Pluto - means that your psychological and emotional cycles are more complex than the norm. This is why you are soon to be pulled between two options, one direct and straightforward, the other, tangled and devious.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

If you have your wits about you this week you ought to be able to finalise a series of personal arrangements and engagements. You have another two weeks to make sure that everything is clearly understood by both sides. You may have to bang their heads together at certain points!

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Why do partners appear to have such an easy time of it, while you are beset by problems of increasing complexity? Actually the answer is probably that your life is more dynamic and interesting than theirs, and you are therefore faced with a greater range of options.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

For longer than you care to admit you have been avoiding deep emotional contact in particular relationships. This may be thereal, underlying reason why a partner is about to issue you with a challenge and ask you to come clean. Perhaps, though, you are right to protect your feelings.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

You certainly do not seem to be at a particular disadvantage, so I cannot see any reason in your solar chart why you should not press ahead with family arrangements and home improvements. And neither can I see any reason why you should not make another profitable investment!

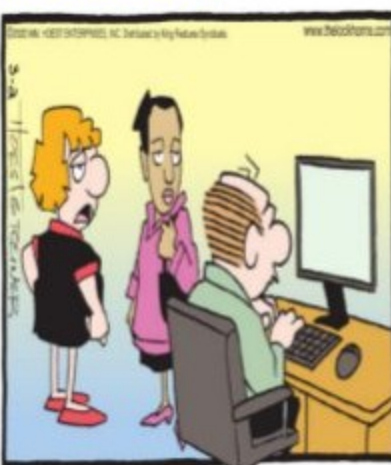
THE PHANTOM



BEEBLEBALEY



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



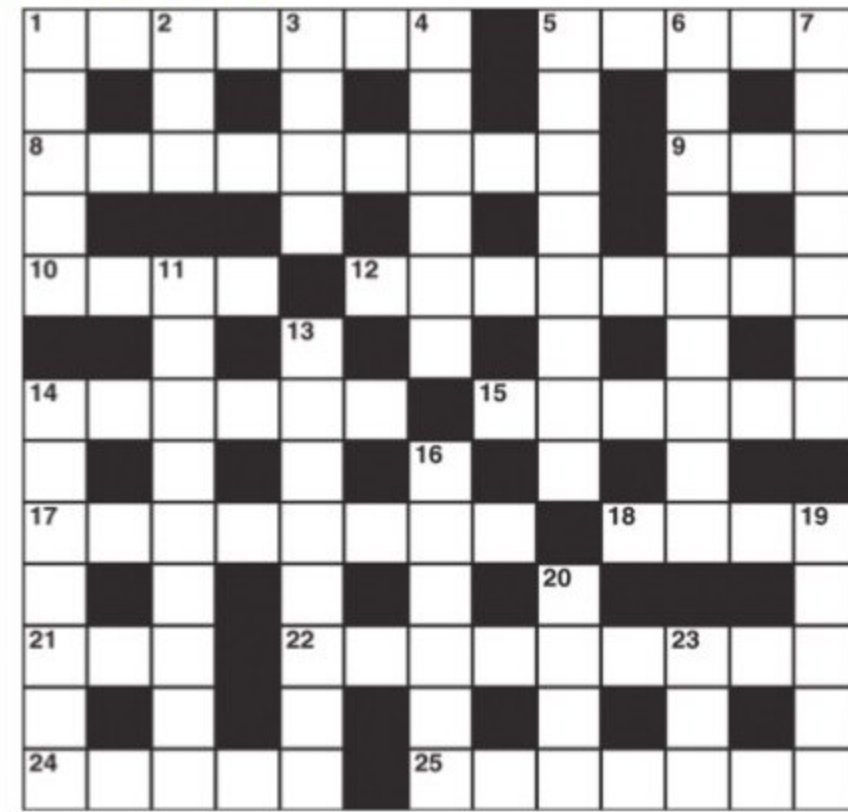
HI AND LOIS



BLONDIE



CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- Reckon to keep fit (4,3)
- One way to apply a finish to education (5)
- Contemplating dining out about ten (9)
- Skill in particular (3)
- It's unchanged when returned to me (4)
- Remote chance a sniper may take (4,4)
- Euclid confused her (6)
- Follows directions and engages in litigation (6)
- You may win one on points (8)
- Normally she gets five years (4)
- Eggs of no value (3)
- Billy took forty winks - that's novel (9)
- Wood split supposedly drunk in ancient times (5)
- A betrayal that will pack the theatre (4-3)

DOWN

- Stands by for callers at Christmas (5)
- Unpopular art form (3)
- Has now moved South (4)
- Stand and fall over a piece of wood (6)
- Taking on the enemy (8)
- He, you and pals got involved in the theatre (9)
- Understatement in T.S. Eliot play (7)
- Speak evil of a worker wanting to do harm (9)
- Heads in capital investments (8)
- A second order of clergy (7)
- A poem's postive points (6)
- Examination on book work (5)
- A love out wardly secure (4)
- One who got paid for Latin? (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

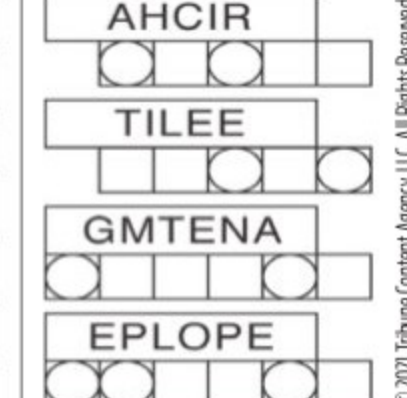
Across: 1 Obituary, 5 Cast, 9 Chaff, 10 Charity, 11 Convoluted, 13 Sodium, 14 Gallon, 17 Intersigent, 20 Ice floe, 21 Teach, 22 Garb, 23 Spurious.

Down: 1 Once, 2 In a word, 3 Unfavourable, 4 Recall, 6 Like, 7 Trysting, 8 Manslaughter, 12 Aspiring, 15 Long ago, 16 Asleep, 18 Their, 19 Thus.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kruk

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S Jumbles: BASIC, WRING, ONWARD, SPEEDY

ANSWER: The huge holed skull found in the desert was - DRY AS A BONE

IIM to train health staff in admin skills

Minister says govt has formed committee for parity in pay scale with Union Government staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER for Health and Family Welfare Dr K Sudhakar has said that doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff of the Health Department will be trained in administrative skills by the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore.

He was speaking at a World Health Day programme organised at Arogya Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday.



The Minister said that doctors must also develop administrative skills to ensure better efficiency in delivery

of health services and better management of hospitals. "Previous governments never focused on training doctors in administrative skills and our government will do it," he added.

Dr Sudhakar also informed that they have formed a committee to ensure parity in pay scale of State Government employees with that of Union Government staff. "I will personally request Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to ensure this is done," he

said. The Minister also promised to complete the filling of vacant posts.

Dr Sudhakar said that excessive use of processed and junk food was leading to cancer, obesity and other lifestyle diseases. People come to the doctor only after they start experiencing symptoms and damage has already set in, he said.

"We need to change this behaviour and increase awareness on non-communicable and lifestyle diseases. With

the help of technology, we can develop screenings and diagnosing systems which can predict diseases at an early stage and thereby help people to take preventive measures" he said.

He also informed that they are planning to celebrate World Health Day on a larger scale by bringing together all 44,000 ASHA workers of the state. "The Union Health Minister will also be invited for the event," Dr Sudhakar said.

HCG welcomes metaverse, 'avatar' to perform surgeries

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

THE HCG cancer care chain on Thursday launched the country's first extended reality lab using the innovative Microsoft HoloLens 2 at their cancer hospital in Bengaluru. The mixed reality technology will now enable the 'avatar' of doctors to perform complicated surgeries anywhere in the country.

Dr Ajai Kumar, Executive Chairman, HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd said, "The adoption of Microsoft HoloLens 2 at HCG is a pivotal step towards serving the larger cause of healthcare. The fact that HoloLens allows users to interact with objects projected into their view is a boon for healthcare stakeholders - whether for comprehending medical scenarios, enhancing surgical interventions, or assessing patient conditions."

HoloLens technology is expected to revolutionise cancer

treatment as doctors from Tier-2 cities can now seamlessly work in the guiding light of specialists from metros, thereby enabling every HCG patient to avail of prompt and best-in-class treatment.

HoloLens 2, developed along with Microsoft, helps doctors operating on a particular patient to collaborate with surgeons, no matter where they are, and interact on immersive 3-D platforms.

Explaining the process, Dr Ajai says, "Let us say we have a major surgery in our centre like say in Ranchi, we can't get the entire team there and patients will have to come to bigger centres for expertise. Now, the 'avatar' of the expert doctor will appear there in the Ranchi centre where the team is operating and he can not just see a 3D vision of the entire case but even discuss, instruct, even mark on the patient even though he is not there in the physical form."



States go ahead, but K'taka still dragging feet on tobacco licences

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DESPITE a gazette notification on rules regarding regulation of tobacco products issued almost a year ago, it is still pending before the Chief Minister's Office and the Urban Development Department. Karnataka was the first to initiate the process of making tobacco vendor licences a requirement in 2013, but with the delay, most states have already implemented such a system.

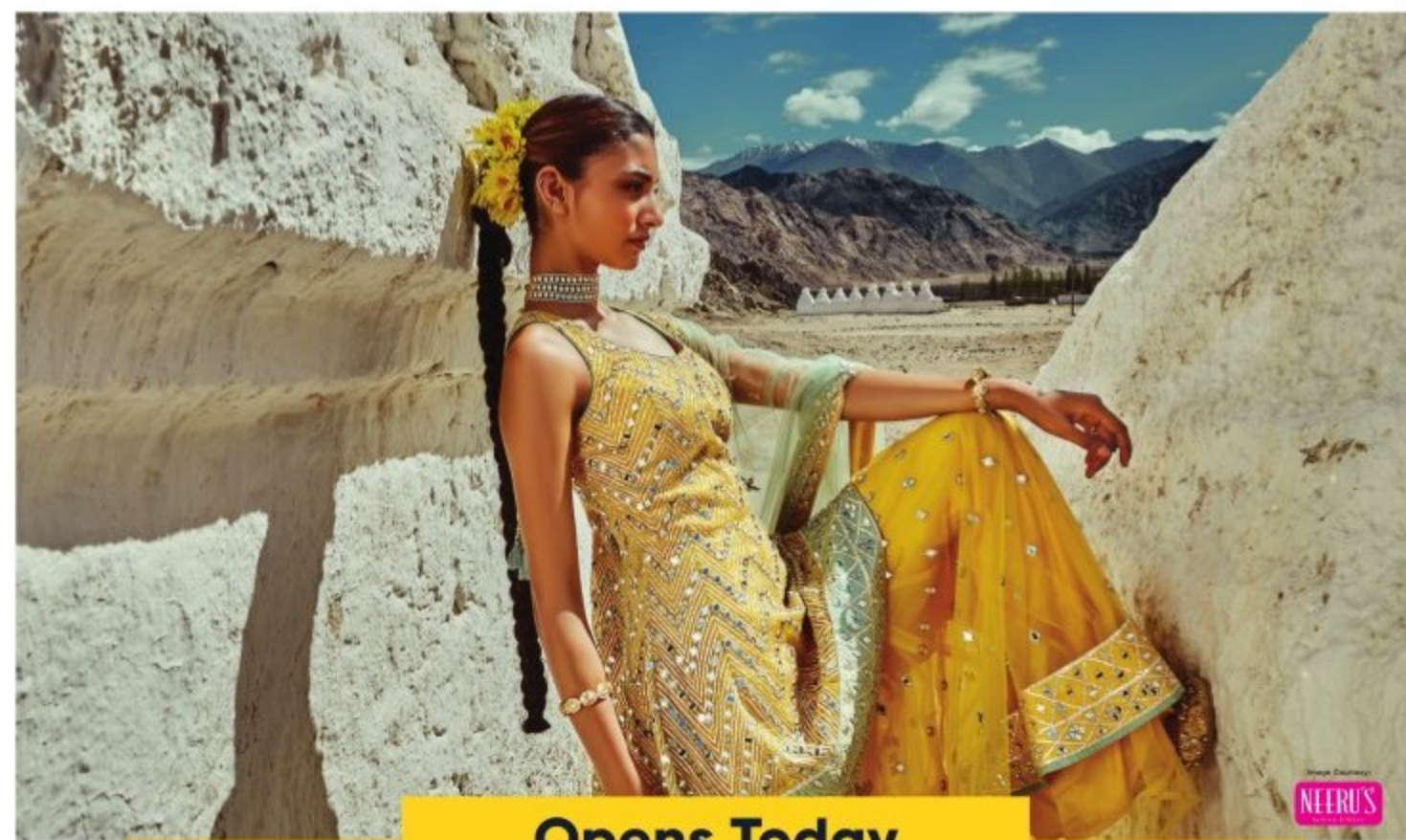
The Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka have been campaigning for licences to be made mandatory for tobacco sellers, as a way to prevent sale of the product to children.

At a press conference, Shashi Kumar, general secretary for the Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) said though there are restrictions on selling tobacco around schools, these go ignored with authorities turning a blind eye.

According to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution), Act 2003 (COTPA), the sale of tobacco products has been banned within 100 yards of any educational institutions and to anyone under the age of 18.

Dr Prasad S M, secretary of the Karnataka branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), said over 90 per cent of smokers start before the age of 18.

"Children are the main target of the tobacco industry. They resort to cheap tactics like celebrity endorsements, attractive display of tobacco products in shops, displaying tobacco products visible to children and near shops selling toys, sweets, soda and electronic gadgets," he said.



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BIZMAN SETS SON ON FIRE OVER FINANCIAL ISSUE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 52-year-old businessman set his 25-year-old son ablaze over a financial issue in Chamrajpet police limits on April 1. The son, who died on Thursday, had tried to defend the father despite sustaining severe burns telling the police that he had set himself ablaze. CCTV footage provided by a neighbour, however, proved that the businessman, Surendra Kumar alias Babu, had set the son, Arpith, on fire. The police arrested him immediately and booked him on charges of murder.

The police said Kumar runs



a construction, timber and fabrication business and his son had taken over two years ago. In the beginning, Arpith used to update his father about business transactions and promptly handed over payments. But over the last few months, he had stopped doing it, upsetting his father.

"Kumar, who checked the accounts, learnt that his son had to pay him Rs 1.5 crore. When he asked about it, Arpith allegedly gave lame excuses. There were frequent quarrels, as Arpith had reportedly told his father that he will not give the money. It is said that during arguments, Arpith would dare

his father saying the maximum he could do is to kill him (Arpith). Around 2.30 pm on April 1, Kumar confronted his son again at their godown. There was a heated argument for over 20 minutes, after which Arpith came out of the godown. Kumar followed his son, poured thinner on him and threw a burning matchstick at him. As it didn't catch fire, he lit another matchstick, held Arpith by hand and set him on fire," the police said. Later, Kumar took Arpith to a hospital and got him admitted.

"As the news spread, a neighbour shared a CCTV video showing the father setting his son on fire. The father was arrested and booked for murder," the police said.

ACB officials raid houses of Commercial Tax officials

Bengaluru: ACB officers raided the houses of two officials and one staffer of the Commercial Tax Department on Thursday for demanding bribes from goods vehicles. While Rs 3.35 lakh, 384 gram gold jewels, a car and a two-wheeler were found in commercial tax officer Syed Mohammed's house, Rs 2,100 was found in car driver P Krishnamurthy's house in Bengaluru. At commercial tax inspector C M Yashwanth's house in Mysuru, 50 gram of gold jewels, one kg of silver articles, and property documents were found, a release said.

Well-known drama artiste of Uttara Kannada district Hoovappa Tulusu Gouda died while performing a play in Belkere in Ankola taluk on Wednesday. He died due to cardiac arrest. The play 'Kurudi Kattida Mangalya' was being staged at Belkere festival on Wednesday night, when Gouda breathed his last

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ROWDY, ESCAPING FROM COPS, COMES UNDER TRAIN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 28-year-old rowdy sheeter came under a moving train in an alleged bid to escape from the police. The incident was reported in Basavanapura in Ram-anagara district on Thursday evening.

The deceased, Dileep — a resident of Sunkadakatte in Bengaluru, was a rowdy sheeter in Madanayakanahalli police station in Bengaluru Rural district.

The police said they were checking vehicles in Basavanapura and

stopped a car, from which a person hurriedly got down and tried to escape. In the hurry, he failed to notice a railway track next to the road and the train passing. He was knocked down by the train and was killed on the spot.

However, it is not yet known whether the police were on the lookout for Dileep or the latter tried to escape out of fear of getting arrested. It is said that Dileep was going to Mysuru with his associates and the Ramanagara Rural police are investigating into the matter.



Britannia Industries Limited



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Britannia Industries Limited (BIL) is in the process of inviting tender from the interested waste management agencies, PROs for the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) action plan across India, as defined under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and CPCB SOPs / Guidelines notified from time to time.

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A meeting of the State Government's Assurances Committee was held at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday, chaired by Udupi MLA K Raghupathi Bhat. The committee asked the officials about the promises the government had made on the floor of the house and elsewhere and inquired within what period of time these will be fulfilled



DIVINE GRACE

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai receives blessings from Sri Subudhendra Teertha Swamiji during the former's visit to Raghavendra Swami Mutt in Jayanagar, Bengaluru, on Thursday | EXPRESS

DECISION ON CABINET REJIG AFTER BJP MEET

Party Executive Committee to convene in Bengaluru on April 16-17

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A decision on the much-awaited cabinet expansion will be taken after April 17, following a BJP Executive Committee meeting on April 16 and 17.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who was in New Delhi for the last two days, told reporters there before leaving for Bengaluru that he had a brief discussion on the cabinet expansion with the party top brass and told them about political developments in the state.

"BJP national president J P Nadda said he will discuss all the issues in detail when he will be in Bengaluru for the Executive Committee meeting. Nadda will take a final decision after consulting party leaders and the BJP National General Secretary," Bommai said.

Nadda also instructed the Karnataka unit to gear up for



the upcoming Assembly elections in the state. "Right now, implementing the Budget programmes will be my priority. Work orders will be issued for the programmes on my return to Bengaluru," he added.

Further, the chief minister said his Delhi visit this time was successful as he met Union ministers for Water Resources, Energy, Environment, Finance and Defence. "There were many issues related to their departments which we discussed, and I have received a positive response from them," he said.

There are currently 30 minis-

ters in the state cabinet, including the Chief Minister, against the sanctioned strength of 34. Bommai took oath as chief minister in July 2021. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was in Karnataka recently, had given a target to Karnataka BJP leaders to ensure the party's victory in 150 seats out of the total of 224 in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Among ministerial aspirants are Honnali MLA and CM's political secretary MP Renukacharya, Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, former CM BS Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra and many more.

BJP sources said that many MLAs are demanding that non-performers be dropped. It is crucial for the government and the party to induct new faces, but it's a delicate issue as if it backfires, it will have an impact on the 2023 Assembly polls, sources said.

Jamia Masjid works on sound solution, puts up decibel meter, others to follow

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of a raging debate over the use of loudspeakers in mosques, Moulana Maqsood Imran Rashadi, Imam of Jamia Masjid, one of the largest mosques in Bengaluru, said they have installed a 'decibel meter' to control the azaan volume within legally permissible limits.

"During this ongoing Ramadan, we are using an electronic sound measuring and control device. We will abide by all legal norms without a doubt," Rashadi told *The New Indian Express* on Thursday.

He clarified that the only issue is the azaan calls and there are no problems with public address systems used for prayers in mosques. "We consulted acoustic experts and they gave us suggestions. We started the process two to three months ago and demonstrated the device to officials of the



Jamia Masjid is using an electronic sound measuring and controlling device to reduce the azaan volume within legally permissible limits | VINOD KUMAR T

Home Department, including the jurisdictional DCP. Later, we conducted a live demonstration for police officers from the DGP's office too," he said.

They started testing the de-

vice in Thanisandra where they found that the azaan volume was an issue for the surrounding high-rise buildings. Then they worked on it in one of their mosques in Mavalli

area near Lalbagh where a team from the Pollution Control Board has been monitoring the azaan volume round-the-clock for the past six weeks. "There has been a lot of effort to ensure that the process is problem-free through repeated checks," he noted.

"Starting with Jamia Masjid in City Market, we will soon install sound monitoring devices in 8,000 important mosques across the state," he said.

Meanwhile, all mosques in Hubballi are following the sound limit norms during azaan. Most mosques have also installed sound control units.

Large mosques in the Central Business District, Ganeshpet, Kamaripet, Dajibanpet, Channappet, Gopankoppa and Unkal have already been keeping a check on the sound output and residents in these areas confirmed that they could barely hear the azaan.

Rights activist moves HC against hate speeches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH increasing incidents of hate speeches by political leaders and right-wing outfits, a petition has been filed before the Karnataka High Court seeking directions to central and state governments to implement the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court on tackling hate speeches to maintain communal harmony.

When the petition, filed by a human rights activist from Mandya district, came up before the court on Thursday, Justice SG Pandit told the petitioner's counsel that the matter will be listed for hearing after the petitioner complies with the objections raised by the registry on how his person-

ACTION SOUGHT	
- Punish public officials for not acting against hate-mongers - Create awareness that hate speech and lynching will invite serious consequences - Strictly adhere to the preventive, remedial and	- punitive measures and take suo motu action against perpetrating individuals - Designate a court in each district to try cases of hate speech and lynching on a day-to-day basis and conclude trials within six months

al rights are affected.

Referring to the judgement in the case of Tehseen Poonawalla vs the Union of India, petitioner Mohammed Khaleelulla, a resident of Nagamangala, stated that the apex court had held that it is the duty of the state to ensure that the law and order machinery functions efficiently in maintaining

peace, and the authorities should see to it that vigilantism of any kind does not take place. "However, the Karnataka government has done nothing about systematic forms of atomised and targeted violence against Muslims, fuelled by hate speeches," he contended.

He also stated that no measures have been taken by the po-

lice to spread awareness that mob violence and lynching will invite serious consequences.

He said that individuals and politicians are not deterred from making hate speeches against minorities, particularly Muslims. A representation was filed before the state government to take action against BJP leaders, including MLAs, MPs and a minister; right-wing activists as well as a pontiff, who have been mentioned as respondents in the petition, along with news reports. But no action has been taken, he alleged.

He mentioned that the economic boycott of businesses belonging to the minority community is a violation of the constitutional guarantees of brotherhood, unity and integrity of a democratic nation.

Cong demands CM sack home minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UPPING the ante against Home Minister Araga Jnanendra for giving a "communal twist" to a road rage murder case in Bengaluru, the Opposition Congress has demanded that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai sack him from the ministry.

"The CM must sack the home minister for giving a statement to create communal disturbances in the state," State Congress president D K Shivakumar told

YOUTH CONG FILES PLAINT AGAINST ARAGA

Members of the Youth Congress stated a protest at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru against Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, terming his statement as "false and malicious and intended to tarnish one community". Later, Youth Congress members, led by its president Mohammed Haris Nalapad, went to the Cubbon Park police station and filed a complaint against the Home Minister.

media persons in Bengaluru on Thursday. He was addressing a joint press conference with AICC General Secretary Ajay Maken.

On Wednesday, the home minister had stated that a

youth was murdered for not speaking Urdu. However, within a few hours, he retracted his statement and clarified that it was based on preliminary information and was wrong.

The Congress leader said po-

lice must register a case against the minister, failing which, the Congress will file a complaint and also stage a protest demanding his dismissal. The Congress condemns the murder of a youth in JJ Nagar in Bengaluru and they are not trying to protect anyone, he said and added that even before the investigation was conducted, the home minister stated that the youth was killed for not speaking Urdu.

After the HM's statement, BJP General Secretary C T Ravi met the youth's family and issued a similar statement.

Police will probe authenticity of video, says CM

MYSURU: In the backdrop of the video of al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri praising Mandya student Muskan over the hijab row creating a storm in the political circle in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed the police to probe the authenticity of the video. The Chief Minister said he has instructed the police chief to probe the authenticity of the video, purportedly released by the International terror outfit al-Qaeda. "In the video, the terror outfit leader has expressed his opinion and views. This is nothing but a continued attempt to challenge the law of this land, disrupt peace and also create confusion among the people," he said. Responding to Siddaramaiah's statement that the video was a handiwork of the RSS, Bommai dismissed it as illogical and baseless. "I don't know why Siddaramaiah should get worried if Al Qaeda is exposed with its views on the hijab row," the CM said, taking a dig at him. **ENS**

With Rao, Mathai in, AAP aims for bandwagon effect

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is taking 'baby steps' in Karnataka, is aiming to create a 'bandwagon effect' with apolitical personalities joining the party first, spurring a growth momentum leading to others jumping in gradually.

Former IPS officer Bhaskar Rao has already embraced the party, while retired KAS officer K Mathai, a self-proclaimed crusader against corruption, is all set to join at a Raitha Sangha event slated to be held at the National College Grounds in Bengaluru on April 21. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is expected to participate in the event.

Sources said that Raitha Sangha leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar too is likely to join the party along with thousands of his supporters.

AAP Karnataka has been preparing a list of key politicians and professionals who are likely to join the party at the event and there could be some surprises, the sources said.

Both Rao and Mathai, who were reportedly on good terms with former chief ministers BS Yediyurappa and Siddaramaiah, have vowed to organise AAP

from grassroots up across the state. Kodihalli Chandrashekar will come in handy in organising the party in rural areas.

Chandrashekar told TNIE, "I am eliciting responses from Raitha Sangha activists about going with AAP or even a merger. A final decision will be taken during the core committee meeting on April 11."

Already, some supporters of Siddaramaiah, especially from Badami, are keen to joining AAP. A former ZP member from the Kuruba community joined the party along with Rao in New Delhi.

"Some District Congress Committee members, including a president as well as KPCC secretaries, are expected to join the party," a source said.

The development may lead to some supporters of Siddaramaiah and Yediyurappa to think of AAP as an alternative rather than JDS, political observers said.

"We welcome all good people who want to bring in a change in society. Every state is simple if you can understand it by understanding the common man's needs for an honest living and ensuring a bright future for their kids," AAP Karnataka in-charge Dilip Pandey said.

'Both al-Qaeda, BJP dividing society'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE opposition Congress on Thursday condemned the al-Qaeda leader's statement on the hijab row in Karnataka, and slammed the ruling BJP leaders for vitiating the atmosphere.

AICC General Secretary Ajay Maken said the party condemns the al-Qaeda leader's statement on the hijab issue in most unequivocal terms as the terrorist organisation has "no business commenting on the internal affairs of the country".

The party also condemned the statements issued by BJP leaders, including Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra. "Both of them are doing the same thing. They are polarising and vitiating the atmosphere in the country by their statements," he said.

Maken said Karnataka has a composite culture and that is why the state is the most favoured destination for businessmen and investors from across the world. "Anyone, the BJP, or even the Al Qaeda, whosever is trying to polarise are not only vitiating the atmosphere, but

also damaging the economy of Karnataka," he said.

Responding to IT Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan's statement that they follow Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, but that doesn't mean they are helpless, Maken said by issuing such a statement, the minister is doing what Al Qaeda is doing. "What is the difference between these two? Except that both are taking the extreme position for their respective religion. This is polarisation. It will kill the culture and economy of Karnataka," he said.



PRICERISE

The Congress is planning to stage a protest against the price rise in Bengaluru on April 11 and the party district units will stage a protest for a day between April 7 to 9. Maken said the price rise has shattered the budget of every household.

LIVELIHOODS AT STAKE

After beef ban, halal boycott will push farmers to the brink, say experts

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

IF halal meat is boycotted, as is being demanded by Hindu organisations, it will lead to similar consequences as the ban on cow slaughter did. It will impact the livelihoods of farmers severely, warned experts.

Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health researcher who recently released a report on the effects of beef ban in Karnataka, said livestock farmers

are currently in dire straits as they are unable to repay loans with other farmers hesitating to buy cattle from them.

"The biggest fear for goat, sheep and poultry farmers is the involvement of bigger corporations and introduction of middlemen. Local tradesmen have been reasonable over buying animals, but middlemen could rob them of all profits," she told TNIE.

Dr Rajeswari Shankar, a veterinary doctor volunteering to

train farmers in rural areas and president of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka (AWAKE), said in goat and sheep trade, the majority involved in the supply chain, including transportation and butchering, are Muslims.

"If there is a boycott, farmers will definitely be affected. Tradesmen will prefer not buying from Muslim traders, and cater to their own communities. With most of those in-



involved in the supply chain from the Muslim community, farmers will have to struggle hard and lowball their offers as the meat trade is time sensitive," she told TNIE.

She said that a majority of farmers are labour class and are usually nomadic, landless or smallholding farmers. "A majority of farmers take part in the cattle, sheep, goat and poultry trade, but the few that are only involved in goat and sheep farming are seasonal

farmers hailing from poorer backgrounds," she said.

She said seasonal farmers often raise livestock as a source of income. The initial reaction of a halal boycott could lead to farmers selling their animals for reduced prices, or sell their livestock to loan sharks to clear off their loans without any bargaining power, she said. Majority of farmers come from lower castes and economic backgrounds, she added.

Cattle farmers too face facing similar problems since beef was banned last year. "Many farmers are from OBCs and have had difficulty paying back loans. They're especially in dire straits, having to turn to other methods to sell cattle and cutting prices," Dr Karpagam said. She also claimed that veterinary doctors have used the ban to fleece farmers to issue relevant documents, since sick animals mean a source of income for vets

Jagan to form new Cabinet on April 11

24 ministers resign; at least five to six to be retained, while others to get party positions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Vijayawada

ALL the 24 ministers of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Cabinet resigned their posts paving way for the Chief Minister to overhaul and pick a new team which will be sworn-in on April 11. At least five to six of those who resigned today will be retained.

Following the Council of Ministers' meeting for almost two hours, 24 ministers submitted their resignations to the CM which will be forwarded to the Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan for acceptance.

"The entire Cabinet had submitted resignations," informa-



Andhra ministers coming out of the secretariat after resigning on Thursday | PRAVINDRA BABU

tion and public relations minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) said after the meeting and added that Jagan Mohan had told them that some of them would be re-inducted into the

government while others would be given party positions.

Another minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) said at least five to six of them would be retained.

Sources said going by the caste and regional equations, four ministers -- Taneti Vanitha, Seediri Appalaraju, Audimulapu Suresh and G Jayaram -- would be retained. Two others -- Bugana Rajendranath and Kodali Nani -- are likely to be reinducted.

The ministers came out smiling after resigning. Highly placed sources said CM raised the issue of resignation in the last 30 minutes and told them

that they would be given proper places in the party. "You will once again be honoured with a Cabinet berth if the party comes back to power in 2024," he reportedly said.

Sources also said the CM opted a gap of three days before the swearing-in to see the reaction of the miffed ministers.

The CM, once again, is likely to have a team with five deputies -- one each from SC, ST, BC, Minority and Kapu -- and give importance to Reddy and Kapu communities. Kodali Nani is likely to be retained under the Kamma quota. It is also learnt that a woman is likely to become the Home Minister again.



SPLASH OF RELIEF

Youth splash around at the Corporation Swimming Pool on Marina to beat the heat on Thursday in Chennai | P JAWAHAR

Madras HC upholds quota for govt students

R SIVAKUMAR @Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of a law enacted by the Tamil Nadu government, providing 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation on a preferential basis for government school students in admission to undergraduate medical courses in the state.

The first bench of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy pronounced the verdict on a batch of petitions filed by private school students challenging the reservation, and aided school students seeking similar benefits, who contended that the quota cuts into the open category and they are left only with 18 per cent, and it also violates Article 14 of the Constitution.

"... we uphold constitutional validity of The Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy on preferential basis to students of Government Schools Act, 2020 and all the writ petitions are dismissed," the bench said. However, it directed the State government to

review the reservation in five years as recommended by the Justice P Kalaiyarasan Commission and, during the intervening period, take steps to improve the standard of education in government schools so that the reservation may not be extended further.

The private school students sought the court to declare GO Ms No. 438 dated October 29, 2020 issued by Health Department and The Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy on preferential basis to students of Government Schools Act, 2020 (Act 34 of 2020) as wholly unconstitutional. The aided school students

prayed for providing them preference on par with the government school students. The bench said that the relief sought for declaring the GO as unconstitutional has become infructuous. The government contended that students were found as socially, educationally and economically backward and therefore, the government, to provide equal opportunity, made the 7.5 per cent reservation which is permissible under Article 15 (4) and 15 (5) read with Article 46.



Man held for cheating at ATMs

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Electronics City police have arrested a man who was allegedly cheating people by withdrawing their money from ATMs on the pretext of helping them.

Police said Srinivasulu, a resident of Doddathogur, had filed a complaint on March 29 stating that he had gone to an ATM on March 9 when two unknown persons entered the ATM on the pretext of helping him withdraw cash. They took the debit card and the PIN from him and returned the card, claiming that the ATM was not dispensing currency. "After a while, Rs 1.50 lakh was withdrawn from his account and he filed a complaint 20 days after the incident, after enquiring with the bank," the police said.

IIPM's longest-serving director hands over charge



BENGALURU: Prof VG Dhanakumar, the longest-serving director of Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) handed over charge to Dr Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Professor and Dean, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, on Thursday. Dhanakumar led the institute as Professor and Director for more than 25 years. An alumnus of Cornell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Northern Illinois University and Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, he has been an innovative educator and experienced in agricultural education and its business orientation. He initiated and launched the first-of-its-kind PGDM programmes on Food Processing & Business Management and Agricultural Export & Business Management during the pandemic.

EXPRESS READ

Int'l human trafficking racket busted, 17 women rescued

Bengaluru: Central Crime Branch sleuths busted an international human trafficking operating in India, UAE and other countries and rescued around 17 women. Seven accused including a junior artistes, employees of event management companies have been arrested on charges of human trafficking. One of the victims had filed a complaint with the Hennur police. Basavaraj Shankarappa Kalasad, 43, from Koppal is the main accused. Adarsh, 28, is a native of Mysuru who supplies dancers and artistes for movies and other shows, Nachimuthu, 32, of Salem in Tamil Nadu, Nariyappan, 44, from Chennai, R Chandu, 20, of JP Nagar, T Ashok, 29, of Puducherry, and S Raji Gandhi, 35, of Tamil Nadu.

Girl elopes to avoid exam, rescued in B'luru

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

A Class X girl in Mysuru eloped with her boyfriend to Bengaluru on Wednesday to skip her Social Science exam. The duo was stopped on a Chennai-bound train at KSR Bengaluru railway station late night just before its departure after the girl sought the help of Railway Protection Force (RPF) cops suspecting him of plotting to push her into the flesh trade.

According to a railway source, the 17-year-old boy was a Class XI student of the same private school. "The girl was worried about her exam and wanted to escape from it. Hence both hatched a plan and decided to leave for Bengaluru for

better life," said a source. After reaching Bengaluru by a train from Mysuru, the boy told her that someone had promised them jobs in Chennai and they had to leave at the earliest. The young girl was apprehensive about the sudden change of plan. An escort team of RPF on the train was conducting routine checks on the train when the girl, in a burqa, made eye contact with one of them. "Using signs, she alerted the cop. The team made them alight the train when they realised they were minors. One of the cops called up the number of the Chennai person and he cut the call the moment he realised it was from police. Their parents have now taken them back home," the source added.

WITH ECONOMY BOUNCING BACK, RECRUITMENTS ON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to him, over the last few months, the state government has started issuing notifications calling for filling up of posts through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) in large numbers, which included 15,000 school teachers from Primary and Sec-

ondary Education Department, 1,200 Assistant professors in Higher Education Department, around 1,500 engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD) and 2,000 First Division Assistants from various departments, which are in different stages of being filled.

But some are sceptical about the recruitment process getting

complete anytime soon as the ARC headed by ex-Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar has recommended abolishing many posts. Guruswamy president, Karnataka State Secretariat Employees' Association, said the government has called for filling up of posts, and if ARC has recommended abolition of some posts, it would lead to cha-

os which is why officials in many departments are delaying filling up vacancies, he added.

The state government has started the recruitment process as the economy is bouncing back. Chief Secretary P Ravikumar said that in the last two years, recruitment was not done in most departments, and several posts are lying vacant

due to retirement and other reasons. Asked about the abolition of many posts by ARC and if it would clash with the recruitment process, he said it would not as most recruitments are at the entry level and are mostly field jobs. "We cannot freeze or delay recruitments as government has to function," he added.

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SHORT-TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Raichur, Karnataka invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the below detailed work on DBOT basis. Two Tender document procedure as per rule 28 of the Karnataka transparency in public procurement act, 1999 & rules 2000 shall be followed. The tenders are required to submit all the documents required for the tender through e-Procurement mode, through portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> (Manual Submission of tenders or documents is not allowed and such submissions shall be ignored and tender of a tenderer making such submissions shall be rejected as disqualified).
TIME SCHEDULE: (1) Downloading of document through e-portal: **05.04.2022 to 18.04.2022 at 17.30** (2) Last date & time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **08.04.2022 at 17.30** (3) Pre-Bid Meeting at Office of the Chief Engineer, 1st Floor, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, E-Block, K.G.Road, Bengaluru: **11.04.2022 at 11.00** (4) Last date for receiving of filled tender documents: **18.04.2022 at 16.00** (5) Opening of Technical bid: **19.04.2022 at 17.30** (6) Opening of Financial bid: **20.04.2022 at 11.00** (1) **Name of work:** Drinking Water Supply Facilities To 1406 Rural Habitations and Treated Bulk Water Supply To 7 Urban Local Bodies In Raichur District From Backwaters of Narayanapura Reservoir Through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Mode Under Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme (INDENT No.:40037). EMD: (INR) 21.68 Crore. **Tender Processing Fee:** As per e-procurement portal. **Period of completion:** 30 months for execution and 60 months of O&M after successful completion of Scheme. More details can be had from the Office of the undersigned and also through our website: <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Department works list.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S, Divn, Raichur.
DIP/Raichur/16/MC&A/2022-23

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FORM No. STK-6 PUBLIC NOTICE		
(Pursuant to sub-Section (2) and sub-Section (4) of Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016)		
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS		
Office of the Registrar of Companies, Kerala, Company Law Bhawan, BMC Road, Thrikkakara P.O., Cochin - 682 021		
Public Notice No: ROC(K)/S.248(2)/STK-6/82cos/650/2022 Date: 04.04.2022		
Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of Companies under Section 248 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of :-		
Sr.	CIN	Company Name
1	U15490KL2018PTC055081	AMMCO CONSOLIDATE PRIVATE LIMITED
2	U45309KL2017PTC051451	THADIKKARAN BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	U74900KL2016PTC040116	PRECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
4	U80900KL2016PTC047015	EXPRO FINISHING SCHOOL PRIVATE LIMITED
5	U45202KL2020PTC062444	WAYMARK BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED
6	U74999KL2016PTC046551	MEDMORPHIA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
7	U72900KL2018PTC051882	SFT ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	U72200KL2016PTC040001	TRAFFITIZER TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
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10	U52609KL2016PTC046585	DAMA KINGS SCRAP TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
11	U01407KL2015PTC038227	CONNOLLY AGRICULTURE PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED
12	U70101KL1995PTC009349	PIONEER REALTORS PRIVATE LIMITED
13	U51410KL2004PTC017115	INDUS ENERGY ZONE PRIVATE LIMITED
14	U72900KL2019PTC058249	ACTATECH SOLUTIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
15	U29269KL2019PTC060792	GUTE MACHINERY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
16	U45500KL2018PTC052235	TALLTREE PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
17	U45200KL2008PTC022832	BIK MAARK BUILDERS AND REALTORS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	U51909KL2010PTC027089	THAILAKANDY RUBBER AND SPICES PRIVATE LIMITED
19	U52609KL2016PTC046457	6ORO TRADERS PRIVATE LIMITED
20	U65992KL1996PTC010064	KOONAMOOCHI KURIES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	U74900KL2016PTC039904	ZEESSAM TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
22	U01100KL2019PTC060704	SAARADHI AGRO ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
23	U72200KL2013PTC033750	FINZONE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
24	U63030KL2015PTC038852	MAGI HOLIDAYS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	U74999KL2018PTC055630	FRONTSOL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	U65929KL2019PLN060891	CORNERSTONE NIDHI LIMITED
27	U74999KL2018PTC052712	CANRICH OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
28	U93090KL2017PTC049648	MELTMIND SPA INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
29	U72900KL2021PTC071975	CLUTCH MOBILE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
30	U72900KL2018PTC054750	VOXTEQ TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
31	U45309KL2020PTC064486	J AND L TRADING & CONTRACTING PRIVATE LIMITED
32	U65992KL2014PTC037303	VUJAYVEEDHI KUNDANNUR KURIES PRIVATE LIMITED
33	U74999KL2020PTC063442	COMMODITY EDGES PRIVATE LIMITED
34	U72900KL2020PTC065161	MECH GENIX SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
35	U72900KL2015PTC037981	BANDED DESIGNS PRIVATE LIMITED
36	U80302KL2013PTC033923	EDWIN ROBOTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
37	U80902KL2019PTC060324	THEORY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
38	U45202KL2013PTC035389	RK SAROVARAM ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
39	U72900KL2016PTC047363	BUENEX LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
40	U74999KL2018PTC054856	BLACKLOTUS COMMUNICATION PRIVATE LIMITED
41	U74210KL2005PTC018511	GLOBAL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICE PRIVATE LIMITED

42	U15135KL2013PTC035232	KUBE CUISINES PRIVATE LIMITED
43	U74910KL2015PTC038501	INDIA LABOUR SUPPLY PRIVATE LIMITED
44	U74900KL2012PTC032759	JAYCEE GENOMICS PRIVATE LIMITED
45	U29299KL1994PTC007996	FLAMMO APPLIANCES PVT LTD
46	U55101KL2008PTC022947	KESTREL RESORTS AND DEVELOPERS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
47	U51900KL2010PTC026229	SABARI TRADING (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
48	U92490KL2021PTC067720	SHIVOHAM ARCHERY PRIVATE LIMITED
49	U65999KL2021PLN069175	SM STREET NIDHI LIMITED
50	U18209KL2017PTC050480	CALICUT TEXTILES PRIVATE LIMITED
51	U29309KL2018PTC054694	ICRAF INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
52	U45201KL2007PTC021331	POURNAMI BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED
53	U45201KL1991PTC006297	KILIYANAL CONSTRUCTIONS PVT LTD
54	U74999KL2018PTC052012	SKYLYTICS LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
55	U45200KL2017PTC049596	SUKRUTHI AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
56	U65992KL1979PTC003113	MINERVA KURIES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
57	U45201KL2016PTC046821	SHAAMCO VILLAS & APPARTMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
58	U80210KL2018PTC053656	CLEAN SLATE EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
59	U65929KL2020PTC064267	ETHICIZE INVESTMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
60	U72900KL2018PTC052169	ZAPTHA CONCEPTS PRIVATE LIMITED
61	U35110KL2011PTC029784	GLANNBREAAN MARITIME SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
62	U52393KL2012PTC031421	GAZAL GOLD PRIVATE LIMITED
63	U51900KL2010PTC026341	AUSKER INDIA TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
64	U55209KL2017PTC049161	DON MERIDA AYURVEDIC HERITAGE RESORTS PRIVATE LIMITED
65	U24233KL2003PTC016437	ECOVEDIC PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
66	U72900KL2019PTC056461	QUADRATOM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABZ PRIVATE LIMITED
67	U72900KL2020PTC063215	QUARTEK GLOBAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
68	U74999KL2019PTC057076	DAYSWELL HEALTHSERVICE PRIVATE LIMITED
69	U72200KL2009PTC025137	LITTLE ENGINE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
70	U72200KL2011PTC029197	PANKANIS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
71	U74995KL2018PTC053248	CARTAFELLA ANALYTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
72	U01409KL2016PTC040340	NEW MODEL FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED
73	U52590KL2020PTC062030	EUROPEAN WATER TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
74	U74999KL2018PTC051797	FAMIS MOBILITY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
75	U52342KL2012PTC032260	COLOURLAND PAINT TRADERS PRIVATE LIMITED
76	U72900KL2021PTC072008	RADARDEV LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
77	U72900KL2020PTC062060	FRANQUEZA PRIVATE LIMITED
78	U74999KL2018PTC054877	EXEC INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
79	U45200KL2012PTC032423	SIGNATURE DESIGN AND BUILD SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
80	U72200KL2016PTC040111	ENVOY ANALYTICS SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
81	U52520KL2016PLC047650	KHAYAR ENTERPRISES LIMITED
82	U72900KL2018PTC052617	MUKTARIT PRIVATE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above mentioned companies under Section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company (ies) have obtained the status of dormant company, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off its/their names from the register of companies.

(2) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above mentioned companies from the Register of Companies

(3) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Registrar of Companies, Kerala

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK
MAHANADIBIHAR, CUTTACK-753004**

Telephone:0671-2441619, E-mail: erwssctc@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum Notice

O-29: The following changes are to be considered for Bid Identification No. RWSSCTC 11 of 2021-22 under unavoidable circumstances.

1. Availability online bidding of tender will be from 11 hour of 13.04.2022 to 28.04.2022 up to 17 hours instead of 08.04.2022 to 22.04.2022
2. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification will be on 27.04.2022 up to 17 hours instead of 21.04.2022
3. Date & time of opening of tender will be on 29.04.2022 at 11:30 Hours instead of 25.04.2022 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack

**SD/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RWS&S DIVISION, CUTTACK** OIPR-25022/11/0001/2223

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for the supply of following item.

(1) Rate Contract for arranging Temporary Electric Supply for affected services,

RE-INVITED E-TENDERS

(2) 73013, (3) 73096, (4) 73094.

Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAM(M)/09/2022 **GENERAL MANAGER**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II FOR KARNATAKA, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, NO.4 RESIDENCY ROAD, BENGALURU

O.A.No : 754 of 2021

M/s. INDUSIND BANK
Embassy Heights, Block B, 3rd Floor,
13 MC Grath Road, Bangalore-560025
V/s ...APPLICANTS

M/s SRG Marketing & Ofs ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEPT. NO.3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION ISSUED UNDER RULE-23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

DEFENDANT NO. 3

Mrs. Geetha, W/o. Late Sundara Raju, R/@ No. 848, 11th Main, RBI Layout, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.

Also at : Plot No. 16-B, B-Block, Krishna Kuteera, Site No. 127/8 Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, East Taluk, Bengaluru-560066.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted the application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,57,56,574.69/-** along with court costs, and current & future interest @ 10.25% p.a. and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 10th day of May 2022 at 10:30 a.m. as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 6th day of APRIL 2022 at Bengaluru.

**Sd/- REGISTRAR,
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II for Karnataka
#4, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st Floor,
Residency (Heyas) Road, Bengaluru 560025.**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

NOTIFICATION

No.: EEE/MWD/KPL/22-23/16-17 Date: 06.04.2022

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under Section 67 of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of Section 67(ii) of the said Act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

1. **Name of the Scheme:** Upgradation of 2x5 MVA, 33/11kV Sub-Station to 2x10MVA, 110/11kV and 1x20MVA, 110/33kV Sub-Station at Hirevankalakunta in Yelburga Taluk of Koppal District along with construction of associated 110kV line required for this Sub-Station by making LIO arrangements from the existing 110kV Kushtagi-Bevor Line for a distance of 8.682 km.
2. **Salient Features:** To improve the quality and reliable Power Supply to the consumers of Hirevankalakunta and surrounding villages coming in the limits of proposed 110kV Sub-Station, Hirevankalakunta.
3. Line passes through these village limits: Murdi, Narasapura, Hunasihala, Uppaladinni and Hirevanakalakunta village of Yelburga Taluk.

The Corporation shall have and shall exercise all powers which the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for carrying of above scheme. Objection to the scheme if any should be sent to the Executive Engineer(Ele), Major Works Division, KPTEL, Koppal within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification for consideration by the Corporation.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Major Works Division, KPTEL, Koppal.**

QuoteExpress

**WITHOUT HARD WORK,
NOTHING GROWS BUT
WEEDS** GORDON B HINCKLEY

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

(See proviso to rule 8(6))

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Sujata Naik (Borrower) Mr. Gajanana Nayak (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account Number LBBNG00004858201	All that Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.601 in Sixth Floor of TULIP Block, "A" Wing "Divya JSR Limelite" being built in Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 866 Sq. Feet of Super built up area which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, Lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with right to use One Open Car Parking Space situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Bounded on the East by: open to Sky, West by: Entrance, North by: Staircase, South by: open to Sky. 2BHK Flat measuring 866 Sq. Ft. and UDS of 346 Sq. Ft. with one open Car Parking Space	Rs. 56,46,465.78/- (as on March 23, 2022)	Rs. 30,00,000/- (as on March 23, 2022)	April 11, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM	April 30, 2022, from 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagee's notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 29, 2022 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before April 29, 2022 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 on or before April 29, 2022 before 05:00PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Bangalore.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9844542086/ 8008999536 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9810029926/ 01244233933.

Please note that Marketing agencies i.e. M/s Matex Net Pvt. Ltd on 9886643162 & 2. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4ps

**Date: April 08, 2022
Place: Bengaluru**

**Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Everest Investment Advisers Pvt Ltd, a registered Investment Adviser, having Registration No. INA200015228 allotted by SEBI on 29th September 2020. The Company has not commenced any business activities as on this date and is now surrendering the registration under SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations 2013. In view of the same, any aggrieved party may make any representation against the surrender before SEBI within 7 days of the date of the notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, N G MOHAN, No.27, Sirur Park Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020, I have lost the original sale deed dated 24.9.1997 Registered as document 7816/1997-98. In this regard I have lodged missing complaint with lost Article Report No. 0161904/2022, 17/02/2022. If found please Call : 9449033707

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, V.Gajapathi son of Late Venkateshappa, is the sole and absolute owner of the property bearing Site No. 373, formed in new survey No. 81 of Bellahalli, formed by 4th Grade Employees of Karnataka government employees of Vidhanasoudha, Bangalore. I HAVE LOST THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED in respect of the aforesaid property registered as document No. GNR-1-04276-2015-16. Stored in CD No. GNRD114, dated 18.01.2016. The sale deed is missing since 03.07.2020 If any person is finding it he shall contact me on my mobile and I shall reward him also, contact on Mobile No. 7975044792/9342309010.

FORM NO. 17

[See Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income- Tax Act, 1961]

**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1)**

No. 4, Residency Road, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru-560 025

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993.

RC No. 619/2021 IN O.A.No. 161/2017

CANARA BANK VS. SRI. ANAND KUMAR

To, **The Certified Debtor**
1. Sri Anand Kumar
S/o Sri Ashwathappa, Proprietor M/S Amulya Floriculture, R/o kachahalli village, Tubagerehobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore rural District - 562103

Also at : No. 66, Lakshmidhevipura village, Tubagerehobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore rural District - 562103

Whereas you were ordered by the Presiding Officer of Debts Recovery TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1) who had issued **Recovery Certificate No. 619/2021 IN O.A.No. 161/2017** to pay to the Certificate Holder Bank the sum of Rs 1.39, 10,232/- (Rupees ONE CRORE THIRTY NINE LAKHS TEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO ONLY) along with costs, expenses and future interest @ 15% p.a. compounded half yearly and overdue interest of 2% in case of default in payment from the date of filing of the OAI e. 01.01.2017 till the date of realization in full, jointly, severally and personally and whereas as the said has amount not been paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable properties.

You are hereby informed that the day on or after fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and setting the terms thereof, you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

SPECIFICATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All That Piece And Parcel Of 1 Acre 22 Guntas Of Land Survey No. 66 Of Lakshmidhevipura Village, Tubagere Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural District And Bound On: East By: Land Of Puttanna, West By: Government Halla, North By: Land Of Doddanna, South By: Land Of TR Nagaraj

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 25th day of March 2022.

**Sd/-
(RAJASEKHARAN R)
RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

**ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI**

**SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)**

Office Phone No: 06338-272131, Email : preckdee@gmail.com
No.PRE/CKD/Db/e-pro/2022-23/40 Date: 04-04-2022

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department/P.W.D. Department & with E-procurement registration Bangalore, on "turn-key", basis only.

	Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurement Date: Other works	04-04-2022 To 18-04-2022
01		
02	Bid Closing & submission Date: Other works	18-04-2022 AT 4:00 PM
03	Financial Bid Opening Date:	16-04-2022 AT 11:00 AM
04	Pre Bid Meeting Date: [KW-2 & 3 only]	20-04-2022 AT 11:00 AM
05	Technical Bid Opening Date: [KW-2 & 3 only]	20-04-2022 AT 11:00 AM
06	Financial Bid Opening Date: [KW-2 & 3 only]	22-04-2022 AT 11:00 AM

General Works Indent No's:	88524, 88537, 89655, 89656, 89657, 89649, 89651, 89652, 89541, 89540, 89562, 89671, 89561, 89559, 89560, 89539, 89659, 87993
SC Works Indent No's:	89554, 89546, 89548, 89549, 89550, 89551, 89552, 89553, 89647, 89650, 89653
ST Works Indent No's:	89554, 89555, 89558, 89648

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi**

DIPO/BGM/RON.39/22-23

सेन्ट्रल माइनिंग एण्ड डिजाइन इन्स्टीट्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI), www.cmpdi.co.in/, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>"

SELECTION RALLY FOR BOYS SPORTS COMPANY, THE MADRAS REGIMENTAL CENTRE, WELLINGTON 2022

1. Boys Sports Company (BSC), The Madras Regimental Centre (MRC), Wellington (Nilgiris), Tamil Nadu is a joint venture between Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Indian Army with a vision to select, groom and prepare potential talent in selected sports disciplines, to improve our medal prospects in future National/ International sports events. BSC at MRC is responsible to nurture talent for Athletics (All India Level)
2. The Selection rally for enrolment into BSC, MRC will be conducted at Thangaraj Stadium, Wellington from **25 Apr to 26 Apr 2022** for the age group of 11 to 14 years (born between 25 Apr 2008 and 24 Apr 2011). Outstanding sportsmen having attained the age of 15 or 16 years, will be considered as exceptional cases based on their level of competence and participation in the above mentioned sports disciplines. The entry for selection will be opened on **25 Apr 2022 at 7 AM to 5 PM only**. School children having participated at School Games Federation of India (SGFI) level or equivalent sports events must bring their certificates of participation / certificates of medals received.
3. The physical fitness standards required for young talents will be 153 cm height for 12 years, 155 cm height for 13 years and 160 cm height 14 years. Taller candidates will be given preference for selection. Educational qualification is min 5th std pass. Selected candidates will be provided with free accommodation and education till 10th Class and sports training under the coaches of SAI.
4. On attaining the 17 ½ years of age, the young talents will have an option of enrollment in The Madras Regiment through sports quota based on their performance and subject to meeting the laid down physical / educational standards.

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF, TKJ, PS on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1 05221127 / 04.05.2022	End Wall Assy for LBH ACS T	947 Nos.	13,13,070/-
2 05211744 / 04.05.2022	Supply of Nose Cone frame arggt. for T18 DTC	20 Nos.	5,70,070/-
3 04221016/ 25.04.2022	Brushless DC Fan 110V 400MM Sweep	1,474 Nos.	65,402/-
4 05221077/ 28.04.2022	Shell Kits Items for 3PH Memu Coaches	119 Set	20,00,000/-
5 52211444/ 02.05.2022	Set of Final Roof Element	616 Set	9,15,620/-
6 05221146/ 06.05.2022	Underframe Complete	68 Nos.	15,57,060/-
7 13225156A/ 02.05.2022	Air Cooled Screw Air Compressor of Capacity 50 CFM, MECH/M&P/ 3600/GMP PL. No. 6502081	01 Nos.	NIL

(1) For details and making On-line tenders, visit website: <http://ireps.gov.in> Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website: <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIB digital signature required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in> (2)Tenders will close at 14.25 hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 7 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 6 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi (3) For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note : GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM

(1) The following amendment is authorized against Tender No. 12221031 for "Procurement of Set of hand holds arrangement for Memu 3PH & MEMUT3PH Coaches" **Due Date : 05.04.22. To be Read as : 12.04.2022** (2) Tender No. 12221053 for the "Item Set of Laugage Rack" **Due Date : 07.04.2022 To be Read as : 13.04.2022** (3) Tender No. 12221063 for the "Item Set of Laugage Rack Complete" **Due Date : 07.04.2022 To be Read as : 13.04.2022**

PCMM

Notice No : G-RCF / 122 / Stores / 006 / 2022-23 Dated : 07.04.2022

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES No-E-07/2022

The following e-Tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to Login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in> login>E-Tender-goods & services (new) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tenders 14:30 hours.

S. Tender No.	Description	Due Date
1 06224237	BED SHEET HANDLOOM	13/04/2022
2 06224308	SOFT BLANKET FOR AC	13/04/2022
3 06224302	FACE TOWEL	13/04/2022
4 06224296	PILLOW COVER	13/04/2022
5 78225396	FIRE RETARDANT	14/04/2022
6 21210762	NON-ASBESTOS BASED	15/04/2022
7 26222717	AXLE BOX HOUSING	15/04/2022
8 26222172	SET OF PRIMARY SPRINGS	15/04/2022
9 78225411A	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF LONG SPAN	18/04/2022
10 29222862	COMPOSITION BRAKE BLOCKS	18/04/2022
11 26222078	SUSPENSION TUBE	18/04/2022
12 11220574	BRUSH LESS DC RAILWAY CARRIAGE FAN	18/04/2022
13 11224221	9 WATTS 2FEET LENGTH LED	18/04/2022
14 06221137	SERVOPLEX SHC-120	19/04/2022
15 04220192	DRAFT KEY FOR ENHANCED SCREW COUPLING	19/04/2022
16 06224300	POLYSTER STAPLE FIBRE PILLOW	19/04/2022
17 52225380	LAZER CLEANING	20/04/2022
18 78225458	DECORATIVE THERMOSETTING LP SHEET	20/04/2022
19 04220455	SINGLE PIECE FRP LOUVRE SHUTTER	20/04/2022
20 26222199	BRAKE HEAD FOR WAM4	21/04/2022
21 78225424	DOOR ASSEMBLY	21/04/2022
22 82225098	SILANE SILOXINE	22/04/2022
23 04220191	ENHANCED SCREW COUPLING	22/04/2022
24 04220897	HEAD STOCK COMPLETE	22/04/2022
25 78225467	STAINLESS STEEL TROUGH FLOOR PART	25/04/2022
26 21220082	ARTICULATED BEARING	25/04/2022
27 29223182	NI-CAD BATTERY STORAGE	25/04/2022
28 21220848	660mm LENGTH AIR BRAKE HOSE	25/04/2022
29 21225001	SET OF HIGH HORSE POWER TRACTION	25/04/2022
30 26221574	AUTO DRAIN VALVE	25/04/2022
31 44220594	KIT FOR CONSTANT CONTACT	26/04/2022
32 04220096	EQUILISING STAY FOR LOWER SPRING	28/04/2022
33 44210242C	KNUCKLE	28/04/2022
34 90225602	ENERGY CUM SPEED MONITORING UNIT	29/04/2022
35 26211160	SET OF LABYRINTH AND BEARING	29/04/2022
36 04221181	BOGIE FRAME	29/04/2022
37 43221067	BEARING RIVETED CAGE	02/05/2022
38 44225001	FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF UNDER FRAME	02/05/2022
39 04225002	STANDARDIZED BRAKE DISC	02/05/2022
40 82225097	CRIBS ACID	03/05/2022
41 26221565	A-9 AUTOMATIC BRAKE VALVE ASSEMBLY	03/05/2022
42 29222861	ELEMENT FILTER ENGINE FIBRE GLASS	04/05/2022
43 26222734	AXLE BOX HOUSING	05/05/2022
44 26222308	HIGH CAPACITY EMU	05/05/2022
45 04220835	DRAFT YOKE FOR DRAW GEAR	06/05/2022
46 26222307	MVMT Impeller with 24 Blades	09/05/2022
47 26221655	CONTRACT TO M/s.REPL Part No S2529	10/05/2022
48 26222700	SET OF POLYURETHANE SPRING	11/05/2022
49 26223533	FINGER CONTACT SEGMENT	12/05/2022
50 44220595	KIT FOR PU SIDE	13/05/2022
51 04220895	KNUCKLE FOR IMPROVED HIGH TENSILE	17/05/2022

The following e-bid has been published in GeM website. Firms are requested to login to www.gem.gov.in and quote against the following e-bid. Manual quotations will not be entertained.

52 GEM/2022/B2074023	FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF MULTIPURPOSE FIRE TENDER	11/04/2022
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For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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Lost of Sale Deeds

Document No 1

Sale Deed Dtd 01/02/1996 favoring JyotiBasantkumar, vide No 445/1996 Book 1 in an extent of one acre of Agriculture Dry land situated at Sy No 603/3, situated at AGALAKOTTA Village, Denkanikottai Taluk, Old Dharamapur District, New Krishnagiri District registered at the office of the Sub Registered Denkanikottai, Tamil Nadu.

All the piece and parcel of agricultural land measuring to an extent of 1.00Acre comprised as follows.

Survey No	Sold out Extent In Acre	Total Acre In Hectare	Acre	Hectare
603/3	1.00	0.40.5	2.9	1.18.2

Situated at Agalakotta village, Denkanikotta Taluk, Old Dharamapur District, New Krishnagiri District and bounded on the North by : Agriculture Land in Sy No 603/2 South by : Bullock cart track, West by Agriculture Land in Sy No 603/3 East by : Bullock cart track situated within the registration sub district of Denkanikotta and Registration District of Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.

Document No 2

Sale Deed Dtd 06/02/1996 favoring JyotiBasantkumar, vide No 446/1996 Book 1 in an extent of one acre of Agriculture Dry land situated at Sy No 603/2 & 603/3, situated at AGALAKOTTA Village, Denkanikottai Taluk, Old Dharamapur District, New Krishnagiri District registered at the office of the Sub Registered Denkanikottai, Tamil Nadu.

All the piece and parcel of agricultural land measuring to an extent of 1.00Acre (0.40.5 hectares) comprised as follows.

Survey No	Sold out Extent In Acre	Total Acre In Hectare	Acre	Hectare
603/2	0.49	0.19.9	4.7	1.90.2
603/3	0.51	0.20.6	2.92	1.18.2
	1.00	0.40.5		

Situated at Agalakotta village, Denkanikotta Taluk, Old Dharamapur District, New Krishnagiri District and bounded on the North by : Agriculture Land in Sy No 603/2 South by : Agriculture land in Sy No 603/3 West by Agriculture Land in Sy No 603/2 and 603/3 East by Bullock cart track, situated within the registration sub district of Denkanikotta and Registration District of Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

Brief Tender Notification (Through E-procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No: No.: BESCOM/DGM (SG&EV)/BC-53/2022/23/ENQ-01 Dated: 07.04.2022 for the work of "PROVIDING EV CHARGING STATIONS AT RTO PREMISES ACROSS THE STATE AND STRENGTHENING BESCOM CHARGING STATIONS IN BANGALURU CITY." Issue of Bid Documents 18.

WAR FOR ZEE ENDS WITH IMPORTANT CORPORATE LESSONS

The legal battle for the control of the Zee Group is fortunately over and it appears the entertainment company is slowly but surely moving to a merger with Sony Pictures Network India. Corporate India has seen many such battles—the latest being the Indigo Airlines’ clash between promoters Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal. These wars for control between feuding brothers or promoters, and sometimes between investors and promoters, is detrimental to the long-term interests of the company and therefore to the lakhs of shareholders where the company is widely held. In the case of Zee, the Subhash Chandra family raised a huge debt to finance their business plans in infrastructure and allied areas. The new, diversified businesses did not do well, leading to default and forfeiture of Zee shares held as collateral by creditors.

It was indeed tragic to see the Indian promoters—Subhash Chandra and others who had built the company from scratch—down to a 4% stake. For the Invesco Fund, which had the largest holding of 18%, and other big fish, it was a takeover opportunity. Invesco called a Shareholders General Meeting (SGM) to oust the old management. Then followed a long legal battle in the Bombay High Court, which finally went in favour of Invesco’s ‘right’ to convene an SGM. Meanwhile, Zee protected itself by announcing a ‘merger plan’ with Sony last year. As for Invesco, before the ink had dried on a favourable Bombay High Court order, it stepped back and announced support for the merger.

The Zee case has some important takeaways. The company’s chairman Subhash Chandra built an Indian entertainment network in the teeth of competition against international behemoths like Rupert Murdoch’s Star India, only to see his empire disappear because of dud investments in infrastructure. Domain knowledge is crucial for business success, and it cannot be acquired in a day. It is better to stick to the tried and tested path rather than launch in uncharted waters. These disputes also reinforce the need for more professional management. Large listed companies are ultimately public holdings and the management must be committed to ensure its spectrum of shareholders are well served.

CPM MUST RESOLVE CONGRESS PUZZLE

It may be a coincidence that the 23rd party congress of the CPM began in Kannur on the same day that the BJP celebrated its 42nd foundation day. The saffron party, which has been listed as enemy number one by the Left, is sure to dominate the five-day brainstorming session as upsetting the BJP’s apple cart in the 2024 Lok Sabha election is the top agenda of the triennial conclave. Though the CPM has reduced itself to a party that is relevant only in Kerala, its history of being instrumental in bringing together like-minded parties at the national level on various occasions lends some credibility to its intention of forging a broad alliance to take on the BJP-led NDA. In the past, the CPM has effectively discharged the role of a catalyst in forming a third front and strategising a working relationship between that and the Congress. Many leaders in the CPM believe that the decision of the Left parties to snap ties with the UPA over the India-US civil nuclear agreement in 2008 was a blunder.

With the BJP-led NDA in power since 2014 and looking formidable, and the Congress showing no sign of a revival, the CPM can indeed assume the responsibility of forging a credible opposition alliance. There are a few local giants like TMC, TRS, DMK, AAP, and NCP, but the job of bringing them together with a common goal and balancing regional and personal interests is a strategic one. The political resolution being discussed at the ongoing conference does talk about an alliance of secular forces. The role of the Congress in such an alliance, however, seems to be an issue that remains unresolved within the party. The Kerala leaders want to keep both the BJP and Congress at an equal distance, but others feel that any alliance excluding the Congress won’t be strong enough to challenge the BJP. The Kerala unit’s dilemma is understandable, given that the Congress is its main rival in the state. But if the CPM is serious about fighting the BJP, it needs to ensure that opposition votes are not divided. Keeping the Congress out will be a mistake. Assessing the strength of the enemy correctly and mobilising the maximum possible resources is a priority in any warfare.

Criminal provisions in economic and business laws raise concerns amongst directors, young entrepreneurs as well as domestic & foreign investors, reducing ease of doing business

WHY WE NEED TO DECRIMINALISE ECONOMIC LAWS

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE



Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

A stable, predictable and technology-enabled regulatory framework is imperative for a sustainable and attractive business environment. The key for economic and business legislations is to facilitate streamlined regulatory ecosystems and promote business. More so, laws should be enabling and encourage entrepreneurship rather than act as a deterrent. There is a need to decriminalise commercial disputes and civil offences in business and economic laws in India, especially with respect to technical offences, unless it includes an element of fraud or wrongdoing. Offences that are of a technical nature, do not affect public interest prejudicially or are not serious offences may be considered to be decriminalised. For such business and economic legislations that fall within the domain of arbitration or civil courts, the government may consider decriminalising the laws. The punishment ought to be limited to penalties instead of fines and imprisonment. Periodic or habitual offenders may be punished with higher penalties as may be decided by the adjudicating authority.

The intent is to encourage a system where penalties are in place rather than criminal proceedings; only serious offences continue to be liable for such sanctions. Serious non-compoundable offences and actions where mala fide intent is proven would naturally continue to be liable for criminal recourse. Thus, a balance between ease of business and adequate deterrence for serious contraventions is the need of the hour. The way forward is responsible decriminalisation and not recommending blanket changes.

It is important to discuss how criminal provisions in economic and business laws raise concerns amongst directors, young entrepreneurs, and domestic and foreign investors. With respect to framework for the settlement of offences, liability of independent directors and vicarious liability against the backdrop of Covid, bona fide decisions taken during exceptional times may not be unduly challenged with the benefit of hindsight. Members of the board may ask for a Directors & Officers (D&O) liability insurance and spend time to understand the scope and coverage of it and evaluate its adequacy with respect to the company and individual directors.

There is a need to create legal and procedural safeguards relating to personal liability of independent directors. Initiation of prosecution itself should be an exception rather than the rule, to keep the risk and rewards of being an independent director proportionate. The idea of decriminalising civil duties is essential to conserve faith in the institution of independent directors.



SOURINADIP SINHA

A much-needed reform in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), is the provision of appropriate protections for company officials in cases instituted against companies. At present, the IPC does not contain provisions dealing with this aspect. Often, it happens that in the absence of any statutory protection, independent and non-executive directors are regularly served summons by magistrates and are frequently made parties to false and malicious prosecutions. Therefore, there is a pressing need for statutory amendments either in the IPC itself or in the relevant special statutes carving out exceptions and safeguards for personnel who are not involved in the day-to-day affairs of the company in line with the judicial precedents on the subject.

The CII has been engaging extensively with the Government of India. Till date, detailed recommendations

on the decriminalisation of business and economic legislations have been submitted to various ministries covering more than 40 laws, including the Companies Act 2013, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Competition Act, Consumer Protection Act, Patents Act, Trade Marks Act, Legal Metrology Act, etc. Recently, a case for broader need for limitation to be applied for criminal offences and some important changes in CPC, CrPC and IPC were also highlighted.

It is encouraging to note that in response to CII advocacy, several offences under the Companies Act, 2013, have been decriminalised. By way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2019, the government re-categorised 16 compoundable offences as civil defaults, covering lapses such as prohibition on issue of shares at discount, failure to file a copy of the financial statement with the Registrar, etc. This was followed by the Companies Amendment Bill, 2020, which decriminalised 48 sections. The Bill re-categorised 23 compoundable offences to In-house Adjudication Mechanism instead of adjudication by courts, covering offences of non-maintenance of company records at a registered office, non-issuance of statutory notices, etc. About seven compoundable offences, where alternative remedies are available,

were omitted, including non-compliance of NCLT orders, which would now be dealt under the contempt jurisdiction of the court. Amendments were also announced to the Limited Liability Partnership Act to decriminalise provisions therein and provide LLPs an equal playing field, compared to large companies under the Companies Act. About 12 offences were decriminalised, including those related to timely filings of annual reports, change in the partnership status of the LLP, etc.

Pursuant to CII recommendations, the government had suggested changes to the Legal Metrology Act to do away with imprisonment for repeat offences and instead increase fines imposed, appoint a nominee officer for probe, etc. States are expected to respond to these changes prior to their enforcement.

The CII appreciates the Centre’s endeavour for improving the business environment, which in turn not only has the potential of attracting investment but also improving the quality of corporate boards and reducing concerns of criminal prosecution for non-material matters. The CII will continue to engage with the Government of India and other stakeholders in taking forward the agenda for decriminalisation of such offences.

(cb@cii.in)

RETHINKING AGRARIAN SUICIDES IN INDIA

STHANU R NAIR



Professor of Economics at Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

Farmer suicides have always been a highly debated issue in the public discourse on agriculture sector performance in India. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 3,58,164 people engaged in the farming profession have committed suicide in India from 1995 to 2019. Though these numbers are of concern, the existing narratives on farmer suicides border predominantly on the sensational and ignore alternative viewpoints. To be specific, three significant gaps exist in our understanding of farmer suicides.

First, existing studies have analysed the intensity of farmer suicides in isolation, i.e. without comparing farmer suicides with those by other professionals. Second, all the current analyses assume that the NCRB database on Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India captures only suicides by farmers. The fact is this database includes suicides committed by both farmers/cultivators and agricultural labourers. As per NCRB definition, farmers are “those who cultivate on their own land as well as those who cultivate on leased land/other’s land with or without the assistance of agricultural labourers”. Agricultural labourers are those who “primarily work in the farming sector (agriculture/horticulture) whose main source of income is from agriculture labour activities”. Hence, the

usage of the term “farmer suicides” is a misnomer. An appropriate word to describe the suicides of both farmers and agricultural labourers would be agrarian suicides.

Third, it would be misleading to compare agrarian suicides to those among other occupational groups using absolute numbers since a substantial part of the Indian workforce is involved in agriculture. A way out is to measure suicides on a per 1,00,000 people basis, called suicide rate. To calculate the agrarian suicide rate, the existing studies consider the working population within the agriculture sector in the denominator. However, for computing the suicide rate for the general population, they consider the entire population in the denominator instead of the working non-farming population. This amounts to comparing apples and oranges.

In the updated version of my recent work, I examine the intensity of agrarian suicides in India by addressing the gaps mentioned above in the previous analyses. The study covers a 25-year period from 1995 to 2019 and 17 major states, contributing to 98.53% of India’s agricultural Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The results are revealing.

Composition and growth: During 1995-2019, among the 12 professional categories covered in the NCRB database, suicides committed by housewives constituted the

most significant proportion (19.05%) of the total reported in the study, followed by other self-employed persons (14.16%), persons engaged in other professions (15.92%) and persons involved in farming activities (12.53%). Thus, the farming profession was only the fourth largest contributor to the overall suicides committed in India. Those working in public sector undertakings (2.07%), government service (1.58%), and retired persons (0.79%) were least vulnerable to suicide since 1995.

More importantly, agrarian suicides recorded a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of -1.37% during 1995-2019. In contrast, suicide deaths among non-agricultural occupational groups taken together grew at 2.09% during the same period. The only other professional categories experiencing a negative CAGR in suicides are self-employed (others) (-4.18%) and government service (-1.14%). Suicides among “other” professions category grew at the highest rate of 3.52% between 1995 and 2019, followed by self-employed business activity (3.17%), students (2.90%), retired persons (1.55%), unem-

ployed people (1.34%), and others.

One notable trend witnessed was the decline in the intensity of agrarian suicides since the mid-2000s. They declined sharply since 2005, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of total suicides. Between 1995 and 2004, it increased from 13.43% of total suicides to 16.30%. The same figure declined from 15.25% in 2005 to 7.61% in 2019. In sharp contrast, non-agrarian suicides have increased almost consistently since 1995. Interestingly, during the period of the sharp decline in agrarian suicides, the share of non-agrarian ones rose from 84.75% in 2005 to 92.39% in 2019. The growth rate of agrarian suicides also declined significantly from 6.39% in 1995-2002 to -3.82% in 2003-2019.

Suicide rate: An analysis of trends in suicide rates showed that the agrarian rate was much lower (ranging from 5.30 to 7.66 per 1,00,000 people) than the rate for the non-agrarian working population (ranging from 30.98 to 38.51) during the period from 1995 to 2011. In addition, since 2003, the agrarian suicide rate has declined almost continuously in contrast to an increase in the rate for the non-farming working population.

Another measure that provides a better assessment of the severity of agrarian suicides is the suicide mortality rate (SMR) ratio. It is the ratio of agrarian SMR to non-agrarian SMR. The former is computed as the ratio of agrarian suicides to the population of farmers and agricultural labourers. The latter is the ratio of suicides among non-farming professionals to the non-farming working population. Thus, the

SMR ratio considers individuals who are engaged in both the farming and non-farming professions. Like the suicide rate, for the 17 states taken together, the SMR ratio has declined almost consistently since the mid-2000s.

A plausible cause for the decline in the intensity of agrarian suicides since the mid-2000s could be the improvement in the performance of India’s agrarian economy after 2003-04 compared to the “agrarian crisis” period from 1992-93 to 2002-03. The growth rate of agricultural GDP, food output, farm productivity, real farm income per cultivator, the profitability of the farm sector and total factor productivity improved after 2003-04. This could be attributed to a series of government policy initiatives implemented since 2003-04 to address the agriculture sector’s problems and challenges.

The above findings reveal that those engaged in the farming sector for livelihood are not the worst affected in terms of suicide death in India. Interestingly, the farming sector is one of the few occupational groups that witnessed negative growth in suicides over time. Therefore, the policy actors in India must refrain from sensationalising agrarian suicides, which can trigger “copycat” suicide attempts. Furthermore, dramatising agrarian suicides can also discourage educated and skilled youth workforce from taking up farming as a career by lowering their regard for the profession. Therefore, India needs a responsible reporting of and discussion on suicides in the farming sector.

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MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Rajapaksa uncaring?

The plight of the Sri Lankan public as the nation is going through a terrible economic crisis is heart-wrenching. Though Indian finances are not in the best position, we cannot close our eyes to the misery of the people in our neighbourhood. The Centre’s gesture of extending humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka reflects the sentiments of all Indians. However, it is strange that the Rajapaksa do not appear to share similar sentiments for their own citizens.

Capt Raju Mathai (Retd), Kochi

India’s freebie culture

In the meeting PM Narendra Modi held recently with the secretaries of all departments, a few officials raised concerns over populist schemes announced by several states. They felt the freebie culture may create a similar situation like Sri Lanka in our nation in the future. Their concern cannot be brushed aside as several states are burdened with heavy loans. Instead of offering freebies like loan waivers and free electricity just to keep their vote bank intact, state governments should work towards opening up job

opportunities for the youth by providing skill development training. Otherwise, India may also face a similar economic crisis in the future.

Ram Saran Singh, Bengaluru

An invention of the mind

The speech by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the Lok Sabha has clearly reiterated India’s policy of being on the side of peace, asking for an immediate end to the violence in Ukraine. India firmly believes that war is an invention of the human mind. The same mind can invent peace with

justice, which in turn can be achieved by understanding. At this juncture, any political colour attributed to India’s actions regarding the Ukraine issue is a great dishonour to our nation.

R Pridhmani, Kumbakonam

Ideological shift

This is with reference to *Clear or blurred? Viewing India through CPI(M)’s lens* (Apr 7). The author has rightly pointed out that the decision of the Communist Party of China to move from a revolutionary party to a ruling one is the essence of

the success story. They realised that sticking to traditional communist ideologies alone would not pave the way to becoming a superpower and so, it focused on promoting economic development and industrialisation. This veering of the party from its ideologies has originally not gone down well with the CPI(M) in our nation, but in recent times, it appears that this party is slowly veering away from its ideologies and initiating measures to improve development. This is a paradigm shift for the CPI(M).

PKSreevalsan, Kannur

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: Manoj Kumar Sonthalia Editor: G S Vasu Executive Editor: Santwana Bhattacharya

Published by R K Jhunjunwala on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen’s Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 560 099. Bengaluru. Vol. 58, No. 84 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. *Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright © Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.



Saket Gokhale @SaketGokhale
Within 24 hrs of me approaching the Supreme Court against the ED Director's appointment, I'm served with a summons from IT Dept today.



Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
We have made 6 airbags compulsory in M1 vehicle category. This will ensure safety of passengers across all segments, irrespective of the cost/variant.



Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Instead of adjourning Parliament two days early, the government should have had the courage to listen to a serious debate on fuel price rise & consumer inflation.

Rajya Sabha tenure of seasoned leaders set to end before start of monsoon session



P Chidambaram



Kapil Sibal



Ambika Soni



Jairam Ramesh

Cong explores comeback routes for veteran MPs

RICH A SHARMA @ New Delhi

ALONG with its fading presence in states barring a few exceptions, the weight of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha is also set to dwindle.

As the curtains fell on the budget session of Parliament, the tenure of some of the senior leaders of the grand old party in the Upper House also came to an end. They will be retiring before the monsoon session starts in July.

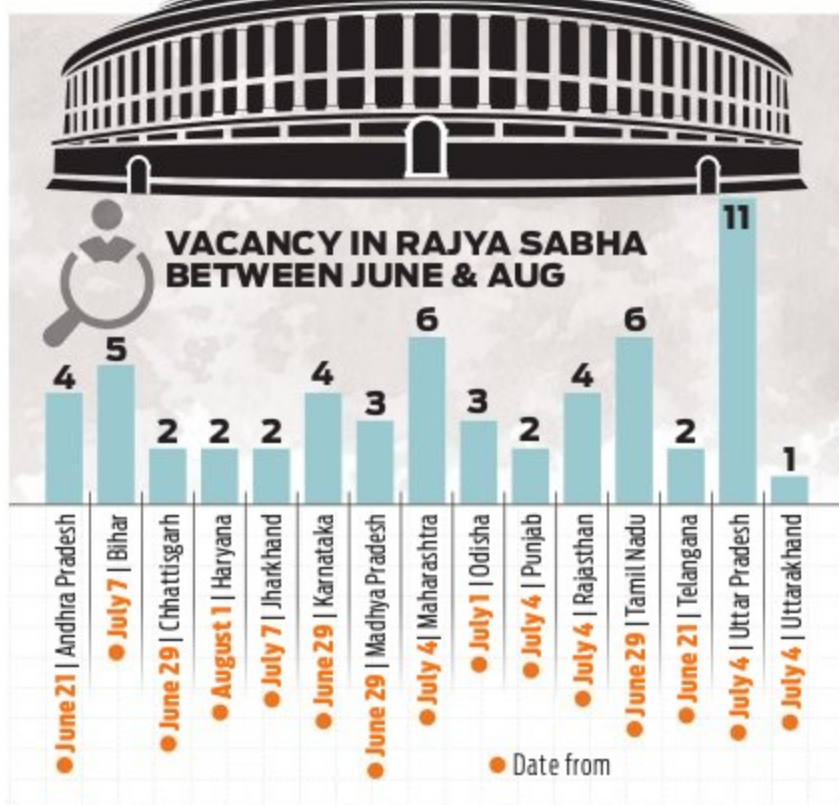
The list contains big names like the party's chief whip Jairam Ramesh, former home minister P Chidambaram and Congress president Sonia Gandhi's close aide Ambika Soni.

The Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha, Anand Sharma, already retired on April 2. Two other veterans whose absence in the House will pinch the party are Ramesh and Chidambaram, who were elect-

ed from Karnataka and Maharashtra, respectively. Both are among the key speakers of the party during important debates in the House. Sources said the party is expected to bring them back from the states where it is likely to gain seats.

Some prominent members of G-23 — the dissenter group within the party — are also set to retire before the monsoon session is convened. These include senior advocates Kapil Sibal, elected from Uttar Pradesh, and Vivek Tankha, representing Madhya Pradesh. Neither, however, is likely to make a comeback to the Upper House. Sibal has been quite vocal against the Congress leadership.

There has been a buzz that as part of an agreement reached between G23 and the top leadership, veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad is likely to make a comeback to Upper House. Earlier,



there was a proposal from DMK to support Azad's candidature but was not approved by Congress. With the Congress footprints in state assemblies shrinking, its prospects in the Rajya Sabha polls have also been dented further, especially after the loss in the recent Assembly elections. In the Rajya Sabha elections on March 31, the Congress has already lost 2 seats in Assam and one in Himachal Pradesh. In the next

phase of elections between June and August, the party is set to lose two seats in Punjab and one each in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The states where the Congress can expect to gain Rajya Sabha seats are Rajasthan (four vacancies), where it is in power; and in Tamil Nadu (6 vacancies), Maharashtra (6 vacancies) and Jharkhand (2 vacancies), where it is in alliance with the ruling parties.

Opposition fumes over sudden session cessation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Opposition on Thursday accused the Central government of running away from discussions on price rise in Parliament and cited that as the main reason for adjourning both the Houses sine die a day in advance, even though legislative business was pending.

The budget session had begun on January 31, with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to the joint sitting of both the Houses, followed by the budget. The session recommenced on March 14 after a

break. It was scheduled to run till April 8.

The Opposition has been pressing for discussion on price rise in Parliament, leading to adjournments. Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the government had promised the Lok Sabha Business Advisory Committee that time will be allocated for a discussion on

price rise, before the sudden adjournment.

Other MPs also protested in Parliament over price rise and the government's refusal to discuss it on the floor of the House. "Parliament has been closed, even though they (government) had given time till Friday. We feel the government is not keen to resolve the problems of the poor, unemployed and farmers. The gov-

ernment is not ready for a discussion and ended Parliament ahead of schedule," Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge said.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam said the Upper House witnessed unhappy scenes due to the arrogance of the government. "They were frightened to discuss price rise, but eager to pass the CRPC Identification Bill. Amrith kaal is becoming 'vinaash kaal'!" he tweeted.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the Opposition had requested that the session be closed April 7.

The govt is not keen to resolve the problems of the poor, unemployed and farmers. The govt is not ready for a discussion and ended Parliament ahead of schedule —Mallikarjun Kharge, RS Leader of Opposition

DEFENCE

101 more items in indigenisation list, says minister

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

GIVING further push to the country's defence indigenisation plans, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday released a list of 101 items, comprising major equipment or platforms. This is the third such list being released by the Ministry of Defence.

The list lays focus on the equipment which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in the next five years. Singh, however, maintained that self-reliance in defence production will also mean "working with other countries and their active participation within India".

The MoD in a statement said, "These weapons and platforms are planned to be indigenised progressively with effect from December 2022 to December 2027. These 101 items will, henceforth, be procured from local sources as per provisions of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020."

The development follows the issue of first list (101 items) and second list (108 items) that were released on August 21, 2020, and May 31, 2021, respectively.

"The spirit behind issuing these three lists, comprising 310 defence equipment, reflects the government's growing confidence that domestic industries can supply the equipment of international standards to meet the demands of the armed forces," said the minister.

Noted virologist says no need to worry about XE variant of Omicron

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Omicron-XE variant of Covid-19, said to be the most virulent to date, is not behaving like a significant threat and should not be a worry, said India's top virologist Dr Gagandeep Kang.

"Don't worry about XE. Why are we getting obsessed with it? Variants will keep coming," said the professor of microbiology at Christian Medical College, Vellore. "This (XE) is not behaving currently like a significant threat. So calm down," she said on Thursday.

The Mumbai civic body on Wednesday said it had found the XE strain in the sample of a 50-year-old South African costume designer, who tested positive over a month back. But hours later, the Union health ministry denied the diagnosis, saying genome sequencing of the patient's sample does not indicate the presence of XE.

The XE variant is a combination of the BA.1 and BA.2 strains of Omicron and is said to be 10 per cent more transmissible. Dr Kang said, "We will continue to see a lot of sequences that will tell us that there is a variant. What

matters is the consequence of that variation, which is when it spreads easily. XE spread at 10 per cent more than Omicron. But is it causing severe disease? It doesn't look like it at the moment.

"We were worried about BA.2. It didn't cause a more serious disease than BA.1. The XE doesn't seem to cause serious disease compared to BA.1 or BA.2. Does this 10 per cent fastest spread matter? In a vaccinated population, I am not too bothered about it," said Dr Kang, who attended an event organised by John Hopkins Gupta-Klincksy India Institute on learning lessons from Covid for a stronger health system. She also said it is not yet known whether XE infects people who have been vaccinated.

"We will see variants in the country as we open up. Everybody is travelling all over the world. We are going to see variants sooner or later. The question is, what is the behaviour of this variant? This one is not that severe. This virus (Covid) has a peculiar way of replicating. The idea that recombinants will arise is something that we should be expecting," noted the renowned virologist.

We are going to see variant sooner or later, as the country opens up. The question is, what is the behaviour of this variant? This one does not appear to be that severe.

Gagandeep Kang, virologist



LoK Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others during Yoga Utsav at the Red Fort | SHEKHAR YADAV

HEALTH MATTERS

Jaishankar, Rajnath US-bound for 2+2 meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit the US from April 11-12 to attend the 2+2 meeting.

This will be the fourth 2+2 meeting between India and the US. The US delegation will be led by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.

"The dialogue would enable both sides to undertake a comprehensive review of cross-cut-

ting issues in the India-US bilateral agenda related to foreign policy, defence and security with the objective of providing strategic guidance and vision for further consolidating the relationship," said MEA spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi on Thursday. The 2+2 dialogue will also provide an opportunity to exchange views about important regional and global developments and how the nations can work together to address issues of common interest and concern. As part of an

ongoing dialogue, the External Affairs Minister will separately meet his US counterpart, Secretary Blinken. The External Affairs Minister is also scheduled to meet senior members of the US administration to further advance the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Pakistan visa for Sikhs

Meanwhile, Pakistan has issued 2,200 visas to Sikh pilgrims to visit Sikh religious sites on Baisakhi on April 13.

EXPRESS READ

4 held in Mumbai for Bengal killings

Rampurhat (WB): CBI on Thursday nabbed four West Bengal residents from Mumbai for their alleged involvement in the Birbhumi killings, an officer said. These were the first arrests made by the agency since it took over the probe into the March 21 killings in Bogtui village as per the Calcutta High Court's order. "The four accused had direct involvement in the killings," said an officer.

Deshmukh mastermind, ED tells HC

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh was the "mastermind and brain" behind the money laundering conspiracy and that he had misused his official position to amass wealth. The agency also said Deshmukh should not be granted bail because he can influence the investigation.

India abstains from voting against Russia for 10th time

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

AS expected, India abstained from voting for the 10th consecutive time in the United Nations General Assembly, this time on the suspension of Russia from the UN Human Rights Commission. The draft resolution showed 93 voted in favour of the motion, 24 against, while 58 abstained.

"India has abstained on the resolution with regard to suspension of the Russian Federation from the Human Rights Council adopted in the General Assembly today. We do so for both substance and process," said India's permanent representative to the UN, TS Tirumurti.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, India has stood for peace, dialogue and diplomacy. "No solution can be arrived by shedding blood

and at the cost of innocent lives. If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and immediate end to violence," Tirumurti explained.

"We continue to remain deeply concerned at the worsening situation and reiterate our call for end to all hostilities. When innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail as the only viable option," he said.

India also expressed deep concern over the mass killings in Bucha and reiterated its stand on independent investigations.

As mentioned by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Parliament on Wednesday, India's explanation for not voting also mentioned that the impact of the crisis has been felt beyond the region, with increasing food and energy

costs, especially for developing countries. It is in India's interest to work constructively, both inside the UN and outside, towards seeking an early resolution to the conflict.

"India has been at the forefront of protecting human rights, right from the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We believe all decisions should be taken respecting the due process, as our democratic polity and structure enjoin us to do. This applies to international organisations, particularly the UN," Tirumurti said.

Amongst the countries that voted against the resolution were China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Syria and Tajikistan. Amongst nations which were in favour were the US, UK, Switzerland and Poland.



Moscow flights of Air India hit air pocket of uncertainty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AIR India was the only carrier from India that did not stop flying to Moscow, even after the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine. On Thursday, this schedule ran into turbulence, resulting in the suspension of a flight from Russia to India.

The decision was taken after international insurance companies communicated that Air India flights landing in Russia won't be valid for insurance because of the threats posed by the ongoing conflict. "Air India has cancelled one return flight on the Delhi-Moscow-Delhi sector," said an Air India spokesperson. There was no further comment.

Air India was operating two flights between Delhi and Moscow every Wednesday and Saturday. It reviews its insurance every April. While doing so this time, the issue of uncertainty over flying to Moscow emerged, leading to the cancellation of the return flight. It has to be seen if the issue is resolved in the next few days.

AFTER RUSSIA, IRAN TO SELL OIL IN LOCAL CURRENCY

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

IRAN may soon follow the Russian example and start selling oil and gas in its currency, rial, instead of United States dollars.

The rial is likely to be bound to gold, just like the Russian rouble.

Sources said Iran may soon announce an attractive rial-gold exchange rate, which would incentivise purchase of oil and gas in rial or gold.

The Iranian decision will deal yet another big blow to the US dollar, which has been the preferred currency for international trade.

Late last month, Russia had decided to sell oil and gas in rouble or gold.

The Central Bank of Russia had announced that the Russian rouble is bound to gold as of March 28, 2022. The rate announced by the bank is 5,000 rouble for one gram of gold. This is much lower in rouble than its value in dollars. Iran, too, is reportedly

working on pegging the rial-gold exchange rate lower than the dollar-to-gold rate. Iran has started sounding its big buyers about the decision. India is one such buyer. Iran had replaced Saudi Arabia as India's biggest oil supplier before former US President Donald Trump pulled out of the Obama-era deal and imposed sanctions on Iran.

Iran is keen to revive the rupee-rial trade deal with India. It has been in touch with the government of India. Sources said the Indian government was not averse to such a deal.

"India is weighing the pros and cons. A rupee-rial deal would yield huge monetary benefits. But we have to also think about the US reaction. It is already seething with anger over our deal with Russia," a government source said.

According to reports, Russia has offered about a 25% discount on oil prices, and Iran may offer a similar discount.

Go to govt, SC response to plea on infiltration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday expressed displeasure over matters concerning governance coming to it. The court said this when a petition seeking directions to the Central government and state governments to identify, detain and deport illegal immigrants and infiltrators within a year was mentioned.

Chief Justice NV Ramana questioned advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay why this was brought up when this is the government's domain. "Please take it up with the government. If we have to take up all your PILs, then why did we elect the government? There are houses like Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha," the CJI said. The matter will be heard again after the Union government and states file their replies.

The plea sought directions to the Central and state governments to make illegal immigration and infiltration a cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence. "Illegal migrants, particularly from Myanmar and Bangladesh, have not only threatened the demographic structure of bordering districts, but have seriously impaired security and national integration. The need for expeditious identification of illegal migrants has become more pressing than ever. Recently, many were found providing forged citizenship certificates," it said.

Omar quizzed by ED over 12-yr-old laundering case

J&K ex-CM says he is not an accused in the case; his party flays BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday questioned former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in connection with a money laundering allegation dating back to 2010.

Abdullah, who reached the agency's office in the national capital around 11 am, was questioned by the officials for around five hours. An official said his statement was recorded in connection with the case that was registered by the ED earlier this year.

The case pertains to the purchase of J&K Bank's building in Mumbai in 2010, when former J&K finance minister Haseeb Drabu was its chairman.

While leaving the ED office, Abdullah claimed that he was not an accused in the case.



They called me for questioning in connection with an ongoing probe in a nearly 12-year-old case. I answered them as much as I could. They did not accuse me of anything

OMAR ABDULLAH, National Conference leader

"They called me for questioning in connection with an ongoing investigation in a nearly 12-year-old case. I answered them as much as I could. I will further help them if they need me. They did not accuse me of anything," he said.

However, the National Conference condemned the questioning and described it as "witch-hunt and vengeance". The party further alleged that the Central government has made a habit of misusing agencies and Thursday's questioning of Abdullah was another step in the same direction.

"No political party that put up a meaningful opposition to the BJP has been spared, whether it is the ED, CBI, NIA,

NCB—all have been used for political purposes. There was a time when polls were announced by the Election Commission but now it seems that they are announced by the ED. Over recent years, we have seen that wherever state elections are due, agencies like the ED move in and target those parties who pose a challenge to the BJP," said a party statement.

It further stated Abdullah would cooperate with investigative agencies as there is no wrongdoing on his part. "We have no doubt that this fishing expedition will yield no concrete results to the BJP and the people will give a ringing endorsement to the NC as and when required."



HOLY BATH

Devotees gather to take dip in the Ganga on the occasion of 'Chaiti Chhath Puja', in Patna on Thursday | PH

MAHARASHTRA FIR against Somaiya, son

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Police on Thursday registered an FIR against BJP leader Kirit Somaiya and his son Neil Somaiya a day after Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut alleged that the saffron party leader siphoned off ₹5 crore which was crowdfunding to preserve the decommissioned naval vessel INS Vikrant.

Targeted for book criticising Modi: Patel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PATEL told *TNIE* that he had taken a true copy of the court order and showed it to the immigration officials on Thursday, but yet they were not convinced and did not allow him to leave. Patel is scheduled to visit the US to deliver a series of lectures. Patel claimed that he is being targeted because his book criticises Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Patel had in the Delhi High Court challenged the LOC in connection with a case of an alleged violation of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act during his stint at Amnesty.

PROTESTERS, SCRIBE STRIPPED BY MP COPS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A group of protesters and a local journalist covering their protest were taken into custody and stripped inside a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district recently.

Pictures of around eight protesters and local journalist Kanishk Tiwari standing against the wall wearing only undergarments went viral over social media on Thursday, compelling the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government to order a probe into the matter.

With the chief minister taking the episode seriously, senior officers of Sidhi Kotwali — including Inspector Manoj Soni and SHO Abhishek Singh — besides some staff of the police station were transferred to the Sidhi Police Lines.

The incident happened on April 2 after local theatre activist Neeraj Kunder was arrested by police for allegedly making abusive posts against local BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla and his son Gurudutt Shukla, through a fake ID.

Coming to know about the arrest, a group of men, mostly comprising theatre artists associated with Indravati Natya Sansthan (run by Kunder) protested outside the police station on April 2 evening.

According to local scribe Kanishk Tiwari, who runs a YouTube channel and also contributes news for a national news channel, the police first used force against the protesters and then took them into custody. Tiwari alleged that he was beaten and forced to remove clothes by the policemen, leaving him in undergarments, just like the rest.

Tiwari further alleged he was targeted owing to his stories against the local BJP MLA and the local police.

The state police, however, claimed the protesters and Tiwari were taken into custody as they were breaching peace outside the police station in the name of protests.

A senior police officer said the men were made to remove clothes and remain in undergarments, as part of normal practice, to prevent any possibility of detained men attempting suicide by using their clothes.



FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
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SRINAGAR DIARY

5 tourist hamlets to be developed around Dal

Authorities are considering the creation of five tourist hamlets in the world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. The hamlets, planned at Kachri Mohalla, Sofi Mohalla, Tinda Mohalla, Akhoun Mohalla and the Vegetable Market & Floating Garden, are being established on a pilot basis. They will have all basic facilities for inhabitants as well as tourists and local visitors. Officials have been directed to prepare department-wise plans within one week for the development of these hamlets. They have also been asked to carry out development of tourist villages in such a manner that there will be home stay facilities to tourists and employment opportunities to local youth.

4 disgruntled Jharkhand MLAs to meet Rahul

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AMID internal rift in the Congress unit of Jharkhand, at least four disgruntled party MLAs under the leadership of Jamtara legislator Irfan Ansari have sought an appointment with Rahul Gandhi to put their grievances before him. According to Ansari, he is in touch with five more party MLAs, who will also accompany him to Delhi for meeting Rahul Gandhi and All India Congress Committee General Secretary KC Venugopal.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the four disgruntled MLAs — Umashankar Akela, Naman Bixal Kongari Rajesh Kachhap and Irfan Ansari.

Ansari alleged they are being sidelined by the state ministers who are not even ready to meet them. He also said the four Congress ministers in the coalition government failed to perform, and hence, young leaders must be given a chance. Coming out in the open against the party state leadership, Ansari alleged that leaders rejected by the people are being picked up for ministerial berths by the party. "All the four ministers from the Congress quota have failed to perform as people are not happy with them and hence young leaders in the party should be given a chance," said Ansari.

Another MLA Rajesh Kachhap asserted Congress ministers are not ready to meet them and they have to wait for long even for small matters.

State Congress president Rajesh Thakur on the other hand brushed aside the development and said this is nothing new as they have been meeting quite often. "If four MLAs of the same party are meeting together, it is not a serious matter. It is in my knowledge and nobody needs to worry about," said Thakur.

Ayodhya airport plan takes off with UP-AAI land agreement

NAMITA BAIJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Ayodhya International Airport project of the Uttar Pradesh government took wings with a lease agreement signed on Thursday between the state civil aviation department and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for transfer of 317.86 acres of land to the latter to give shape to the venture.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was present on the occasion, said the Ayodhya district administration would provide another 86 acres required for the construction of the Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport. The state government had already cleared the amount required for the purchase of the land to the district administration, he added.

Exhorting the authorities concerned to complete the project at the earliest, Yogi said, "Lord Ram had returned to Ayodhya (after a 14-year exile) in Pushpak Viman. We should try that when his idol is placed and consecrated in the Sanctum Sanctorum of the upcoming temple at Ram Janmabhoomi, the airport also gets operational."

In a bid to bring the temple town on the world tourism map as the 'global spiritual capital', the Yogi government has planned the makeover of Ayodhya as 'Navya Ayodhya', and



the international airport is an important part of this vision. The government is keen to give a concrete shape to the Ram temple as well as the airport before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The airport is planned at a distance of about 10 km from the Ram Janmabhoomi complex, where the work on the temple is going on.

The agreement signed on Thursday will be part of the first phase, in which the state

government plans to get small aircraft, essentially ATR, operational by the end of 2023. In this phase, the government plans to establish air connectivity between Ayodhya and Hindon air base in Ghaziabad. The proposed airport will be constructed under the Centre's Regional Connectivity Scheme. "The state government will provide all possible assistance in ensuring timely completion of the project," the CM said.

Probing multiple cases, Central agencies roam in Trinamool backyard

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal is facing the heat of Central agencies probing multiple cases in the state. While the CBI is investigating four cases, all of them based on the orders of Calcutta High Court, the Enforcement Directorate is looking into a money laundering case which allegedly involves the chief minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

The TMC government has been opposing probes by the Central agencies into all these cases. In the latest development, the state on Thursday moved the division bench of Calcutta High Court challenging a single bench order transferring to the CBI the probe into a Congress councillor's murder in Purulia.

The state government told the HC that a special investigation team constituted by it had almost wrapped up the case and at this stage, there was no point in transferring



CBI officers with an eye witness in the Birbhum massacre case | FILE

the case to the CBI.

Another high-profile case which the CBI took over recently is the massacre of nine people in Birbhum district.

The other two cases being probed by the CBI are the alleged irregularity in recruitment through School Service Commission (SSC) and a cattle smuggling racket involving a TMC leader and a paramilitary official.

Besides, armed with the high court order, the ED is probing into a money laundering case in connection with coal pilferage in which Abhishek Banerjee and his wife, Rujira, have been summoned on several occasions.

MAHA TUSSLE

Centre insists on Aarey land for metro work

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A fresh round of tussle has broken out between the Maharashtra government and the Centre over the latter's refusal to hand over a parcel of land under its control for constructing a shed for the Mumbai Metro.

The Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs wrote to Maharashtra chief secretary stating that the state should develop the Metro Line-3 shed at Aarey Colony only. Earlier, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state had changed the site of proposed shed from Aarey to Kanjur Marg after protests by environmentalists, Shiv Sena activists and public who feared damage to the local ecology as the area has thick greenery.

The Centre has stated that it would not be feasible to develop the car shed at Kanjur Marg owing to operational difficulties, and financial and legal issues. "Relocation of the shed from Aarey to Kanjur Marg will cause major escalations of the cost, infrastructure and impact, and therefore a decision should be taken duly considering long term viability and sustainability," read the letter.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had earlier alleged the Centre was not cooperating with the state by handing over the Kanjur Marg land.

UKR med colleges allow students to intern abroad

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

IN a big relief to thousands of Indian students, several Ukrainian medical universities have allowed foreign students to gain practical training at hospitals in their own countries. While many universities were shut in the wake of the Russian offensive, some have started online classes. For medical students, it is mandatory to get clinical experience in the absence of practical classes.

Manas Verma, a student of Bukovinian State Medical University, said: "It is a good opportunity to get practical knowledge." The university said, "Bukovinian State Medical University would like to request hospitals, medical clinics, and healthcare providing structures all over the world from where international students are studying at our university to do some favours to our medical students. Students may be given a chance to volunteer/observe/work as assistants to get substantial medical knowledge," said the notice, which the acting rector signed.

newindianexpress.com

अदालती सूचना
आइया से श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार सागर,
सिविल जज (सी०डि०) देहरादून
न्यायालय सिविल जज (सी०डि०)
देहरादून।
प्रकीर्ण वाद संख्या 185 व/से 2022
श्री कमल कुमार भारगी पुत्र
जी०एन०भागी निवासी 30 शोभा मेला
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प्रबंधक, न्यायालय सिविल जज
(सीजी), देहरादून

Quote Eater

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GOING THROUGH
HELL, KEEP
GOING**
— WINSTON CHURCHILL —

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Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) and the powers conferred under section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the rules made thereunder, hereby gives notice to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) to appear before the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to appear before the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property of the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the rules made thereunder. The undersigned hereby gives notice to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property of the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the rules made thereunder. The undersigned hereby gives notice to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and the amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Particulars of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1. Old Katha No.393, Present	15-04-2021	04-04-2021

hanka Hobli, Bangalore North a, and Bounded on : East by : a, West By : Gramathana Site .68 belonging to Ravindra and	(Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixty Thousand and One Hundred Eighty Only.)
Authorised Officer Aadhar Housing Finance Limited	

CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
CHAKRAVARTHI ROAD, CHAMARAJAPET, BANGALORE -18.
TEL : 26609066, Tele Fax : (080) 26617980

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7/2-1, Eastern Side, Old No. 7/2 (East Side), 1st Cross Padarayanapuram, Chikmagalur. Measuring :- East to West : 28 feet & North to South : 15 feet, Western portion of property No. 7/2 Sold to Attualla, Property of Raju, South by : Others property.

7/2L-002154 & LTL(EMI):-000225, Loan issued Date :- 06.02.2012 & 19.06.2012 Sixty Thousand & Seven Hundred & Forty Eight Only. As on 17.03.2022 with incident expenses, cost, charges etc.

17.03.2022 Branch: CHAMARAJPET (WEST)

Chinniswamy, No.126,16th Main, K.P. Agrahara, Mariyappa palya, Bangalore-2

East to West : 30 feet & North to South : 60 feet,
West by : Property belongs to Munirathnamma,
 property belongs to Annaiyappa.
No :-LTL:-003330 Loan issued Date :- 31.07.2019
 Two Lakh Seventy Four Thousand & Nine Hundred & one Only
 paid amount together with incident expenses, cost, charges etc.
18.02.2022 Branch: CHAMARAJPET (WEST)
 Alaiiah, No. 08, 8th Main, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru.

East to West : 30 feet & North to South : 60 feet,
West by : Property belongs to Munirathnamma,
 property belongs to Annaiyappa.
No :-LTL:-003330 Loan issued Date :- 31.07.2019
 Two Lakh Seventy Four Thousand & Nine Hundred & one Only
 paid amount together with incident expenses, cost, charges etc.
18.02.2022 Branch: CHAMARAJPET (WEST)
 Alaiiah, No. 08, 8th Main, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru.

East to West : 25 feet & North to South : 23 feet,
South by : Private property No. 6, South by : A.U. School & Road (8th Main

:- 12.02.2021 Branch: CHAMARAJPET (WEST)

42 feet & North to South : 30 feet,

File No :- LTL(EMI) : 000166 Loan issued Date :- 03.05.2019
Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand & Five Hundred & Twenty Two Only), As
amount together with incident expenses, cost, charges etc.
Notice dtd:- 22.02.2022 Branch: CHAMARA (PET (WEST))

Bank shall exercise its rights under Section 13 of SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of the said Secured Assets, Bank has the right to take possession of or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining your consent. Bank reserves the right to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deems fit.

charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
The Bangalore City Co-Operative Bank Limited.,

100



4.3 million
Ukrainians have fled their country since the Russian invasion, the UN said on Thursday



Beijing	27	11	SNY	Los Angeles	36	16	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	23	15	LC
Dhaka	37	25	SNY	Moscow	15	5	LC
Dubai	37	24	SNY	New York	17	8	LC
Houston	24	11	SNY	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	18	9	LR	Toronto	9	3	LR
London	12	2	LC	Washington	16	6	LC

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow
TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Sri Lanka asks experts to plan debt restructure as protests rage

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA'S president has appointed a panel of experts to organise a restructuring of foreign debt as he seeks a way out of a worsening economic crisis, with protests demanding his resignation escalating. Shortages of food and fuel, along with record inflation and regular blackouts, have inflicted unprecedented misery on Sri Lankans in the most painful downturn since independence from Britain in 1948. Ratings agencies have warned of a potential default on the nation's \$51 billion foreign debt, with authorities unable to secure more commercial loans because of credit downgrades. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office said late on Wednesday that a three-member advisory panel had been tasked with guiding Sri Lanka through a "sustainable and inclusive recovery". His government is preparing for bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund. "What Sri Lanka is keen to do is avoid a hard default," a source from the finance ministry. "It will be a negotiated restructuring of the debt with the help of the IMF." Parliamentary Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana warned on Wednesday that the economic crisis could lead to starvation unless addressed within the week. Meetings with the IMF are set to begin by next week but Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa -- the president's brother -- resigned on Sunday night along with nearly the entire cabinet. The country is still without a replacement, with his successor quitting after just one day in office. Public anger is at fever pitch, with crowds attempting to storm the homes of several government figures and demanding President Rajapaksa's resignation.

Meanwhile, local media have reported that protests are escalating, with civil servants and schoolchildren joining demonstrations organised largely through social media. In an apparent bid to head off more protests, the government on Thursday declared extra public holidays for next week to coincide with the traditional Sinhalese and Tamil New Year. Security forces have dispersed some protests with tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets, and dozens of people have been arrested, with many saying they were tortured in police custody. Chief government whip Johnston Fernando reiterated on Thursday Rajapaksa would stay in office to lead the country out of the crisis. **AFP**



Police stand guard as demonstrators protest against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities, in Colombo on Thursday | **AFP**

Med group warns of catastrophic shortages

Colombo: Sri Lanka's national medical association warned on Thursday that hospitals will be unable to provide even emergency services in coming weeks because of critical shortages of drugs and medical equipment caused by the country's economic crisis, leading to a catastrophic number of deaths if supplies aren't replenished.

Travel ban on former central bank chief

Colombo: A Sri Lankan court on Thursday placed a travel ban on the country's recently resigned central bank chief following allegations he is responsible for the island's crippling economic crisis. The magistrate in Colombo ordered Ajith Cabraal, who quit on Monday, to appear in court on April 18 to answer a complaint against him. The court asked immigration authorities not to allow him to leave the island after a rights activist filed a petition against him. Cabraal, who was handpicked to lead the bank by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was responsible for Sri Lanka's acute foreign exchange shortage and other financial woes, activist Keerthi Tennakoon argued. **AFP**

Ukraine pleads for weapons as fight looms on eastern front

Ukrainian officials urge civilians in the country's east to leave before fighting intensifies

CHERNIHIV

RUSSIAN troops left behind crushed buildings, streets littered with destroyed cars and residents in dire need of food and other aid in a northern Ukrainian city, giving fuel to Kyiv's calls on Thursday for more Western support to help halt Moscow's offensive before it refocuses on the country's east. Dozens of people lined up for food and medicine at a shattered school now serving as an aid-distribution point in Chernihiv, which Russian forces besieged for weeks as part of their attempt to sweep south towards the capital.



People receive humanitarian aid in a school in Chernihiv, Ukraine | **AP**

Ukraine's foreign minister begged again on Thursday for "weapons, weapons and weapons" from NATO -- and the western alliance agreed, spurred into action by atrocities revealed in the wake of the recent Russian withdrawal from areas around Ukraine's capital. Ukrainian officials said hundreds of bodies of civilians were found, many lying in the street, in towns around Kyiv. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba became emotional while referring to the horrors in the town, telling reporters in Brussels on Thursday that they couldn't understand "how it feels after seeing pictures from Bucha, talking to people who escaped, knowing that the person you know was raped four days in a row."

NATO nations to send more weapons

Brussels: Spurred into action by reports of atrocities in Ukraine, NATO countries agreed on Thursday to ramp up the supply of weapons to Kyiv, including hi-tech arms, amid concerns that Russia is about to launch a large offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region. "There was a clear message from the meeting today that allies should do more, and are ready to do more, to provide more equipment, and they realize and recognize the urgency," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after chairing a meeting of allied foreign ministers in Brussels.

WHO calls for access to Mariupol

Lviv: The World Health Organization has called for humanitarian access to Ukraine's besieged city of Mariupol, and said over 90 attacks on health services had been confirmed in war.

Russia's six-week-old invasion failed to take Ukraine's capital quickly and achieve what Western countries said was President Vladimir Putin's

initial aim of ousting the Ukrainian government. In the wake of that failure and heavy losses, Russia shifted its focus to the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking, industrial region in eastern Ukraine.

Ahead of that new offensive, Russian forces are pulling back from several areas in northern Ukraine and moving to Belarus or back to Russia to regroup. It's not clear how long it will take them to redeploy, and Ukrainian officials have urged people in the country's east to leave before the fighting intensifies. Already, Britain's Defence Ministry said on Thursday that Russia was targeting the "line of control" between Ukrainian-held areas and those held by Russia-backed rebels in the Donbas with artillery and airstrikes.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Ukrainian and Russian officials agreed to establish civilian evacuation routes on Thursday from several areas in the Donbas. But later, the head of Ukraine's national railway system said Russian shelling blocked evacuation of residents from some eastern areas.

Overnight, Russia kept up its barrage on several cities, striking fuel storage sites around Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Chuguev using cruise missiles fired from ships in the Black Sea. **AP**

UN suspends Russia from Human Rights Council

UNITED NATIONS/MOSCOW

THE UN General Assembly has voted to suspend Russia from the UN's leading human rights body over allegations of horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

Russia is the second country to have its membership rights stripped at the Human Rights Council, which was established in 2006. In 2011, the assembly suspended Libya when upheaval in the North African country brought down longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The vote on Thursday was 93-24 with 58 abstentions, including by India. That is significantly lower than votes on two resolutions the assembly adopted last month demanding an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine, withdrawal of all Russian troops and protection for civilians. Both resolutions were approved by at least 140 nations.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministry in Moscow said, "Russia considers the vote to suspend it, taken by the UN General Assembly, to be 'illegal and politically motivated, aimed at ostentatiously punishing a sovereign UN member state that pursues an independent domestic and foreign policy'."

The Russian ministry has therefore decided on an "early termination" of its seat on the rights council. "Unfortunately, under the current conditions, the Council is practically monopolised by a group of states that use it for their own opportunistic purposes," the ministry added. **Agencies**

HONG KONG

6 accused of seditious acts at court hearings

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's national security police used a colonial-era sedition law to arrest six people on suspicion of causing a nuisance at court hearings in December and January. The suspects were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of committing an "act or acts with seditious intent", an offence under the Crimes Ordinance. The acts "severely affected jurisdictional dignity and court operations", a government statement said. Police were not more specific about the alleged actions of the suspects -- four men and two women. They did not name the suspects. Local media reported one of those arrested was Tang Kin-wah, the former vice-chairman of the pro-democracy Confederation of Trade Unions, which disbanded in October following concerns over political risks. **AP**

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA Calls for independent probe into Bucha killings

Jakarta: Indonesia called on Thursday for an "independent" probe into the alleged massacre of Ukrainian civilians by Russian troops in the town of Bucha. The call follows an international outcry after Ukrainian officials said hundreds were found executed in areas where Russian soldiers have withdrawn. Indonesia, which will chair the G20 summit on the resort island of Bali in November, declared its support for a UN initiative to set up an independent team to investigate the killings. **AFP**

MALAYSIA

Norwegian diver rescued, 3 still missing

Kuala Lumpur: A Norwegian diving instructor was rescued on Thursday, a day after going missing off Malaysia's southeast coast but three other Europeans were still missing. Kristine Grodem, 35, was found in the water in the morning by a passing vessel, a significant distance from where the group had disappeared. She was then picked up by a helicopter involved in the search effort, an official said. Helicopters, boats and dozens of divers are hunting for the others -- a 46-year-old British man and his son, 14, and an 18-year-old woman. Police said the boat captain who had taken the group to the diving site had been arrested after testing positive for drugs. Grodem had been instructing the divers close to a small island about 15 km off the coast when the accident happened. **AFP**

Yemen prez steps aside amid efforts to end war

SANA'A

YEMEN'S exiled president stepped aside and transferred his powers to a presidential council on Thursday, as international and regional efforts to end the country's long-running civil war gained momentum with a two-month truce.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE, major players in the conflict, appear to have played a role in President **Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's** decision, quickly welcoming it with a pledge of \$3 billion in aid. The head of the new council has close ties to Riyadh.

Whether the switch will expedite an end to the grinding war remains to be seen, as UN-sponsored negotiations have been at an impasse and fighting, airstrikes and missile attacks continued until late last month. The Houthis did not immediately comment on Hadi's announcement. Hadi said the

newly established council will run the internationally recognised government and lead negotiations with the Iranian-backed Houthis, according to a statement aired on state-run media.

The move is meant to unify the anti-Houthi camp after years of infighting and disputes, and was almost certainly orchestrated in Riyadh, where Yemeni factions were meeting over the past week to discuss efforts to end the war.

"With this declaration a Presidential Leadership Council shall be established to complete the implementation of the tasks of the transitional period. I irrevocably delegate to the Presidential Leadership Council my full powers," Hadi declared on Yemen's state-run TV. Hadi also sacked Vice-President Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, a powerful military figure, and also delegated al-Ahmar's powers to presidential council. **AP**



US senate confirms Jackson as 1st Black female SC judge

WASHINGTON

THE US Senate confirmed **Ketanji Brown Jackson** to the Supreme Court on Thursday, shattering a historic barrier by securing her place as the first Black female justice and giving President Joe Biden a bipartisan endorsement for his effort to diversify the court.

Jackson, a 51-year-old appeals court judge with nine years experience on the federal bench, was confirmed 53-47, mostly along party lines but with three Republican votes. Presiding was Vice-President Kamala Harris, also the first Black woman to reach that high office. "This is a wonderful day, a joyous day, an inspiring day -- for the Senate, for the Su-



preme Court and for the United States of America," exulted Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. When Harris called the final tally, the chamber erupted in cheers that echoed beyond its doors. The Senate's upper galleries were almost full for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic two years ago.

Jackson will take her seat when Justice Stephen Breyer retires this summer, solidifying the liberal wing of the 6-3 conservative-dominated court. She joined Biden at the White House to watch the vote, embracing as it came in.

Jackson will be just the third Black justice, after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman. **AP**

Despite risks, Thailand sends Myanmar refugees back

JAKARTA

THE young woman from Myanmar and her family now live amid the tall grasses of a riverbank on the Thai border, trapped between a country that does not want them and a country whose military could kill them. Like thousands of others fleeing mounting violence after a military takeover in Myanmar last February, Hay left her village for neighbouring Thailand in search of a safe haven that does not exist. Returning to Myanmar would place her and her family at risk of death. And yet that is precisely what Thai authorities -- wary of jeopardising their relationship with Myanmar's ruling military -- tell them to do at least once a week, she says.

"When they told us to go back, we cried and explained why we can't go back home," says Hay, who lives in a flimsy



Displaced people from Myanmar live under a makeshift tent along the Thai side of the Moei River in Mae Sot, Thailand | **AP**

tent on the Moei River, which divides the two countries.

Though international refugee laws forbid the return of people to countries where their lives may be in danger, Thailand has nonetheless sent thousands of people who fled violence by Myanmar's military back home, according to interviews with refugees, aid groups

and Thai authorities. That has left Hay and other Myanmar refugees ricocheting between both sides of the river as the fighting in their home villages rages and briefly recedes.

"It is this game of ping-pong," says Sally Thompson, executive director of The Border Consortium, which provides aid to Myanmar refugees

in Thailand. "You can't keep going back and forth across the border. You've got to be somewhere where it's stable....And there is absolutely no stability in Myanmar at the moment."

Since its takeover last year, Myanmar's military has killed more than 1,700 people, arrested over 13,000. Thailand, which is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, insists Myanmar's refugees return home voluntarily. Thailand also insists it has complied with international non-refoulement laws, which dictate that people must not be returned to a country where they would face torture, punishment or harm.

"As the situation on the Myanmar side of the border improved, the Thai authorities facilitated their voluntary return to the Myanmar side," says Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Tane Sangrat. **AP**

Norway avalanche kills three skiers

Oslo: An avalanche killed three skiers in Lyngen in Norway's far northern region of Troms on Thursday, police said, as rescuers searched the area for other potential victims. The three, whom various media reports identified as foreigners, were part of a group of nine skiers who were caught in the avalanche on the Kavringtinden mountain. **AFP**

Britain to build 8 nuclear reactors

London: Britain plans to build eight new nuclear reactors and expand production of wind energy as it seeks to reduce dependence on oil and natural gas from Russia and other foreign suppliers following the invasion of Ukraine. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the plans Thursday as part of a new energy security strategy. **AP**



EDTECH UNICORN

Unacademy lays off 10% of its workforce

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

EDTECH unicorn Unacademy, which recently launched an experience centre- Unacademy Store, has laid off nearly 600 employees, almost 10% of its workforce. The SoftBank-backed start-up employs over 6,000 people, and this firing is said to be a cost-cutting measure.

Sources familiar with the development said nearly half of employees fired were educators, and they were clueless about this sudden move.

Recently, Gaurav Munjal, Co-Founder and CEO, Unacademy Group said that they are on track to achieve profitability in its core business, which is its test preparation platform, in the next one year.

"We are extremely bullish about our core test-prep business and in the growth of our Group companies Relevel, PrepLadder, and Graphy. Our test-prep business is growing over 50% YoY and our EBITDA percentage is also getting better," said an Unacademy spokesperson.

Unacademy's Relevel has witnessed unprecedented growth in the number of users and candidates placed. Currently, there are over 1.8 million registered users on the Relevel platform.

On the sudden lay-off, the spokesperson said, "Based on the outcome of several assessments, a small subset of employee, contractor, and Educator roles were re-evaluated due to role redundancy and performance, as is common for any organisation of our size and scale."

Govt to sell 7-10% stake in LIC: Sources

Hopes to raise up to ₹65,000 crore through this IPO, which will likely be launched in May

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE Government is likely to offload 7-10% stake in the much-awaited Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) initial public offering (IPO), a top official told *The New Indian Express*. It is hoping to raise up to ₹65,000 crore through this IPO, which will likely be launched in May, he further added.

"We will dilute only a small stake between 7 to 10% in LIC. The IPO launch will likely take place before May 12 when the approval from the market regulator, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will expire," the official said. The government had earlier



said that it would offer only 5% of LIC shares to the public in the forthcoming IPO.

Explaining why the government is not selling a larger portion of the equity in LIC, the official said, "We can't take a risk of offering a larger chunk to the public as it would suck

liquidity from the market. Situation is already very unpredictable right now due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Also, the Coronavirus has not completely faded from the country."

The government will have to file the fresh documents with the markets regulator SEBI, in case it fails to roll out the IPO before May 12.

Meanwhile, the sources said that the Centre is in talks with the financial advisers to decide on the price bands and share lots.

The Finance Ministry had previously planned to roll out the IPO by March, 2022 but due to geopolitical tensions it had to defer its plan.

When asked about the impact of the pandemic on LIC IPO, one of the government officials said, "Now that the pandemic is under control, we hope that the disinvestment process will get back on track. We don't want to further delay the LIC IPO."

Meanwhile, with regard to delay in BPCL strategic disinvestment, the official said Covid pandemic derailed the Government's plans. He added that the disinvestment process for BPCL would now be reinitiated only after the Russia-Ukraine crisis will be over.

For the current fiscal, the Centre has set a disinvestment target of ₹65,000 crore.

TATA LAUNCHES ITS SUPER-APP TATA NEU

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

SALT-to-steel conglomerate Tata Group on Thursday officially launched its much delayed super-app 'Tata Neu'.

Expected to bring the Group's multiple services and products under one roof, Neu will compete against the likes of Amazon and Jio Platforms to corner a chunk of India's rapidly growing consumer digital economy.

"Tata Neu is an exciting platform that gathers all our brands into one powerful app. Combining our traditional consumer-first approach with the modern ethos of technology, it is an all-new way to discover the wonderful world of Tata," Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said on LinkedIn.

He informed that Tata-owned brands including BigBasket, Iimg, Croma, AirAsia, IHCL (Taj Hotel), Qmin, Starbucks, Tata Cliq, Tata Play, and Westside will be available on the super app initially. Vistara, AirIndia, Titan, Tanishq, and Tata Motors will be added soon.

The app which was in the testing phase, with access limited to Tata group employees, for over six months had over 500,000 downloads on Google PlayStore by 9pm on April 07 and had a rating of 3.6 stars out of 5 stars.

Tata claims that its super-app seamlessly blends product commerce, service commerce and financial services into a consumer-first, future-ready, integrated experience.

It also claims that the app is a one-stop destination for all consumer needs and offers a suite of financial offerings including UPI, bill payments, loans and insurance. Digital payments in the app can be done under the brand Tata Pay, which will directly face competition from Paytm, PhonePe and GooglePay.

Tata's new app also has a rewards program- NeuPass, which many believe will play a big role in bringing new users. Even though Tata is late in this digital space, the importance of discounts and cashbacks in promoting an app (say Paytm) or service (say Jio telecom) in India remains paramount.



EXPRESS READ

Trader's body seeks ban on online medicine sales

New Delhi: Traders' body CAIT on Thursday asked the government to prohibit online marketplaces from selling drugs in the country. In a statement, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said it has written to commerce minister Piyush Goyal and health minister Mansukh Mandaviya drawing their urgent attention to prohibit e-pharmacies from selling drugs in India.

FM to attend World Bank- IMF meet in US

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will go on a 10-day long US trip to attend World Bank and IMF meet from April 18-28, finance ministry sources told *The New Indian Express*. She, along with the Economic Affairs Secretary will also attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Governors meeting. As per sources, Finance Minister will likely focus on the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

'Ashneer stole all money': BharatPe CEO's fresh jibe

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

THE corporate tussle between founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover, and the current management gets uglier by the day. A social media post on unpaid salary by a BharatPe employee on Thursday triggered another verbal duel between Ashneer Grover and BharatPe CEO Suhail Sameer.

Karan Sarki, a senior associate IT at BharatPe posted on LinkedIn saying that they have not received salary for March month. "All the old admin staff of BharatPe have been terminated by you without giving any reason and their salaries have not been paid," he said. The post soon attracted the attention of other employees as well as that of Ashneer Grover.

Grover replied tagging Her-

simran Kaur (Head of financial control at BharatPe) and Suhail Sameer. He said, "Folks please look into this. Not done - their salaries have to be paid first before anything."

Grover's sister Aashima Grover too joined the conversation and said, "That's the sad part... That's a shameless bunch!" Tagging Aashima, Sameer hit back at her saying "Tere bhai ne saara paisa chura liya. (Your brother stole all the money) Very little left to pay salaries."

Many LinkedIn followers said it was the worst comment they ever read from a CEO. Soon after backlash, Sameer apologised and requested eve-

ryone to have patience and refrain from building a story based on false narrative. "I apologise to have irked many of you. In hindsight, it was out of line. We are already working on past employees full and final being paid out. My comment was a reaction to a particular statement, not the post," he said.

BharatPe denied social media comments about unpaid salaries to its employees. "All the employees of the company have been paid their March salary in full. As per the company policy, employees serving their notice period will receive their full and final settlement amount in the due course as per company policy," the fintech firm said.



I apologise to have irked many of you. In hindsight, it was out of line. We are already working on past employees full and final being paid out. — Suhail Sameer, BharatPe CEO



The BSE Sensex fell 575.46 points while Nifty 50 plunged 168.10 points | EXPRESS

Market falls for 3rd straight day; sheds 1% after rallying 2% on Mon

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DRAGGED by heavyweights such as HDFC twins, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Reliance Industries (RIL) amid a weak trend in global markets, benchmark indexes slipped nearly 1% on Thursday. This is the third straight day when the indexes are closing in red after rallying over 2% on Monday.

The BSE Sensex fell 575.46 points to settle at 59,034.95 while the Nifty 50 plunged 168.10 points to shut at 17,639.55. Like Wednesday, the two indices on Thursday had opened with a cut and slipped further as the session progressed.

According to market experts, the fall is attributed to the US Fed's hawkish stance and profit booking ahead of the RBI policy meet. The Russia-Ukraine conflict which has increased volatility in oil prices continues to impact markets.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said, "Negative sentiment continued for the third straight session as the US Fed's hawkish stance has raised con-

cerns of steeper interest rate hikes going ahead while investors also trimmed their positions ahead of RBI policy, although most of the experts believe the MPC may maintain status quo on policy rates."

RIL on Thursday fell 1.82% to close at ₹2,571.75 on the BSE. HDFC fell nearly 3% to close at ₹2462.65 while HDFC Bank fell 2.19% to ₹1516.90. TCS, Wipro and Titan fell up to 3%.

Buzzing stocks

Zee Entertainment Enterprises declined over 2%, a day after Invesco funds decided to divest stake in the company. IDFC shares tanked 7% after Bandhan consortium announced acquiring its AMC business

crore. Except for pharma, all other sectoral indices ended lower on Thursday.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said if announcements in RBI policy are in-line with market expectations, the market will trade positively considering corrections during the week and falling crude prices or else challenges will prevail.

'Govt sees all options to procure crude at affordable prices'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMID soaring crude oil prices, the Government is exploring all viable options, including import diversification, to procure crude at an affordable price, the Economic Affairs Department said Thursday in its monthly economic review for March.

It added that the higher oil prices may hamper the country's growth target of 8% in FY23.

"Affordability is desired as even the present level of international crude price, should it persist for a long time, may come in the way of India achieving a real economic growth rate of 8% in FY23," it said.

The government's thrust on capital expenditure and improved corporate sector's financial health will help the Indian economy in becoming resilient after it got adversely impacted during Covid pandemic in FY22, the report said.

Meanwhile, the report further added that the impact of the crisis on food, fertilizer and crude oil prices cast a cloud on

the growth outlook globally. India too will feel its effect although the magnitude will depend on how long the dislocations in energy and food markets persist in the financial year and how resilient India's economy is to mitigate the impact, it added.

Transient shocks may not have a big effect on real growth and inflation. ".....gross foreign

direct investment (FDI) inflows into the economy have risen to US\$ 69.7 billion during April-January, 2021-22. Investments funded through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) have continued to remain on an upswing as well, registering a 29.7 per cent growth during April- February, 2021-22 vis-à-vis the corresponding period of last year," it stated.

Infosys and Rolls-Royce launch aerospace engineering centre

Bengaluru: IT major Infosys and industrial technology company Rolls-Royce together have launched a 'Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre' in Bengaluru on Thursday. This collaboration is aimed at yielding mutual benefits to both organisations over the next seven years. The centre has been established to provide high-end R&D services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services from India Jasmeet Singh, Executive Vice President and Global Head of Manufacturing, Infosys, said. "This engagement is testament to the longstanding collaboration between Infosys and Rolls-Royce, which is poised to set new benchmarks in the aerospace, defence and manufacturing sectors." As part of this collaboration, Infosys and Rolls-Royce will combine their aerospace, engineering and digital services capabilities to explore opportunities for driving digital and engineering innovation and associated cost optimisation strategies, the companies said in a statement.

Operating cost of MSMEs increases 20%, suggests SPJIMR study

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE average increase in operating costs of small and medium family enterprises is 19.5% which is far above the current retail and wholesale inflation rates of 6.07% and 13.11%, respectively estimated by the government, a study by SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) reveals.

The study, undertaken by SPJIMR's Centre for Family Business & Entrepreneurship (CFBE), found that a vast majority of small and medium family enterprises have experienced significant operating cost increases and are responding with price increases.

As per the study, manufacturing enterprises seem to be bear-



ing the brunt of the cost increases, reporting an average cost increase of 24%, whereas service enterprises reported an average cost increase of 14.4%. "This would impose a strain on an economic strategy that relies on a manufacturer-led industrial recovery," says the study. Businesses located in North and Western India seem to have had cost increases more than those in the rest of India,

Reasons for the rise

The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) attribute their rising operating costs to increases in the prices of raw materials, fuel, and labour. Raw material price increases are affecting both the manufacturing and service sectors.

the study found.

The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) attribute their rising operating costs to increases in the prices of raw materials, fuel, and labour. While raw material price increases are affecting both the manufacturing and service sectors, the rise in fuel and labour costs is having a greater impact on the SME service sector than on the SME manufacturing sector.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

A digital banking unit (DBU) should have interactive teller machines, video KYC, video conferencing and call facilities.

Banking regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released the DBU guidelines, according to which only scheduled commercial banks with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres.

Each DBU must offer certain



minimum digital banking products and services - both on the asset (loan) liabilities (deposits) side. The new guidelines say that the DBUs are expected to migrate to more structured

and custom made products, from standard offerings by use of its hybrid and high quality interactive capabilities.

Each digital banking unit should be housed distinctly with separate entry and exit provisions. "They will be separate from an existing Banking Outlet with formats and designs most appropriate for digital banking users," say the newly released guidelines. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the launch of 75 digital banking units in 75 districts her budget speech in February this year.

DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

TRAI dismisses USSD fee on mobile banking

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Thursday dismissed the telecom operators concerns and eliminated tariffs for unstructured supplementary service data (USSD)-based mobile banking and payment services from 50 paise per session earlier to nil.

The regulator body said it is a bid to boost digital financial inclusion and protect the interests of ordinary feature phone users. For this service, TRAI today has made an amendment in its Telecommunication Tariff (68th Amendment) Order, 2022.

"After analysing comments received from stakeholders and other data/ information available with it, the Authority is of the view that, to protect the interests of the USSD users and to promote digital financial inclusion, rationalization of USSD charges is required.

In view of the same, the Authority has decided that the subscribers will not be charged USSD for mobile banking and payment service," said TRAI.

USSD is a technology that allows users without internet connection to use mobile banking through certain codes like *99# code. It displays a message of balance deduction on the device screen after a call.



Lucknow take Giant stride

On the back of an excellent show with the ball, beat Delhi Capitals by six wickets for their 3rd win

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

IT was billed as a 'homecoming' as David Warner finally made his second debut for the Delhi franchise. Having made his debut in the IPL with the capital side back when they were known as the Delhi Daredevils, the Australian was returning to the franchise after a long gap.

But as the contest between Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants wore on, Warner's forgettable outing became a reflection of how the capital outfit is still trying to patch together their strongest eleven and hope that their marquee names find form soon, while the KL Rahul-led IPL newcomers are giving the impression of a well-oiled unit at the moment.

The inclusion of Anrich Nortje into the side was also a welcome boost for skipper Rishabh Pant as the pacer has been Delhi's bowling spearhead in recent seasons, but the South African was returning from an injury lay-off and there were questions on whether he was fully ready.

But the big focus was on Warner as he was one of the biggest movers in the mega auction, and seeing him in Delhi colours generated a lot of interest. After missing the first few games due to his exertions with the Australian national team, the 35-year-old was slotted right into the starting eleven here on Thursday.

For a cricketer who has been one of the most successful batters in the IPL, there were a lot of expectations from the former Sunrisers Hyderabad captain.

After a dismal campaign in the last edition with SRH which saw the player and the franchise part company, this was a fresh start and Delhi needed him to start firing after they were put to bat first.

However, things didn't go according to plan in his first outing for the Capitals as the veteran lasted just 12 deliveries in the middle while posting four runs. If Warner failed to make an impression with the bat, what helped Delhi's cause early



Ravi Bishnoi | SPORTZPICS

on was the whirlwind innings from his opening partner Prithvi Shaw. Shaw smashed a 34-ball 61 as Warner just looked on from the other end in a 67-run opening wicket partnership where his contribution was just four. Warner faced just nine balls in the batting powerplay as Shaw monopolized strike and went after every bowler including pacer Avesh Khan. The pacer went for 13 runs in the fourth over as he was smashed for three consecutive boundaries.

Just when it looked like Delhi were racing away, the spin duo of Ravi Bishnoi and Krishnappa Gowtham helped pull things back in favour of the Giants. Gowtham managed to give them the big breakthrough by

dismissing the dangerous Shaw. Once Shaw departed, Delhi lost their sting. Bishnoi went on to dismiss both Warner and Rovman Powell in quick succession and it was down to the likes of Pant and Sarfaraz Khan to steady their innings. It was a big opportunity for Sarfaraz after his exploits in the domestic circuit. The two went on to forge a 75-run partnership but runs were hard to come by as Lucknow managed to keep a check on the run flow as Delhi laboured to 149/3. In reply, Quinton de Kock hit a 52-ball 80 and set the platform for Lucknow before Krunal Pandya and Ayush Badoni saw through the chase in the final over of the match.

Brief scores: DC 149/3 in 20 ovs (Shaw 61, Bishnoi 2/22) lost to LSG 155/4 in 19.4 ovs (De Kock 80, Kuldeep 2/31).

TODAY'S MATCH

TITANS FACE KINGS

Only team with a 100 per cent record, Gujarat Titans, face Punjab Kings, who are seeking a third win in four games. A look...

Ferguson, Shami vs Punjab batters

Punjab are still coming to grips with the freedom with which they have been allowed to play their game. They may be forced to pick and choose their battles against both Mohammed Shami and Lockie Ferguson, who between them, have picked up 9/107 in 16 overs. The winner of this contest will likely win the match.

Gujarat's top-order struggles

Shubman Gill's 84 off 46 notwithstanding, a few of their batters in the top five are struggling, not only for runs but also for timing (Matthew Wade has 31 off 31 in two games, Vijay Shankar (17 off 26 in two games and Hardik Pandya has 64 off 55). Those aren't eye-catching numbers and may look to mix it up if this pattern continues.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS @7.30 PM, MUMBAI

MADRID CRUISE ON BENZ

Karim Benzema lit-up Stamford Bridge while Villarreal upset Bayern Munich in the first leg of Champions League quarterfinals. A few talking points...



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (R) scores his side's third goal past by Chelsea's goalkeeper Edouard Mendy | AP

Big Ben strikes London

The French forward only continues to get better. On Wednesday, he overpowered the defending champions with a fine hat-trick to put Real Madrid on front foot ahead of the return leg. At 34, he isn't supposed to drop deep, build play and also finish off moves. Yet, he did all of that in what was one of the best displays of the season so far.

Plucky Villarreal steal win

Arnaut Danjuma was going to be the dangerman for the hosts and, as advertised, he scored early on. And they hung on to eke out a 1-0 win against one of the favourites. This is what coach Unai Emery does in Europe. For all of Bayern Munich's passing (481), shots (22), they fell short. However, they will believe they can overturn this deficit at home.

Results: Chelsea 1-3 Real Madrid, Villarreal 1-0 Bayern Munich

LOCAL EXPRESS

Shubhang stars in Karnataka win

BENGALURU: Shubhang Hegde came up with a seven wicket haul to help Karnataka beat Uttarakhand by 121 runs in the CK Nayudu Trophy in Jaipur on Thursday. With the help of Kishan S Bedare's 72, Karnataka scored 172 in the second innings, setting a target of 183 to win. But Shubhang, who had scalped five in the first innings, delivered his A game once again to help dismiss Uttarakhand for 61 and win the match.

Ojas scores hat-trick in Snipper win

BENGALURU: Snippers Football Club defeated Horsewing Sports FC 8-0 in the KSFA C Division League match here on Thursday. Ojas scored a hat-trick while Ashmit also managed to score a brace. Jeyan, Harsh N and Antony Leonards scored a goal each. In one of the other matches, Whitefield FC and Garden City were involved in a 2-2 draw.

FRIENDLY TIES KEEP WOMEN MATCH READY

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

THE Indian women's basketball team has been starved of competition. They last played at the Asia Cup in Jordan in September-October, 2021. It's likely their next event — unless any fixtures can be arranged at short notice — could be the Asian Games in Hangzhou this September. When they are not playing for their Indian employers, the only way they remain in touch with the game is in the national camp in Bengaluru (it goes on for about 100 days a year; give or take). They also don't have a current foreign coach after Zoran Visic was let go by the Sports Authority of India (SAI)

after the completion of his contract last year.

On Thursday, at the Nehru Indoor Stadium, one finally got a glimpse of a majority of the current Indian players thanks to a second round league match between Indian Railway and Kerala (out of the 12 that played in the last tournament, the former supplied six players while three were from Kerala). While Railway are traditional powerhouses, Kerala have built a squad capable of challenging them in the 21st century. Here's a small number that supports that statement. Since the turn of the century, there have been four women's finals between these two sides. In that time,

QUARTERFINAL LINE-UP (all games on Friday)

Women: Indian Railway vs Assam, Kerala vs Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh vs Telangana, Tamil Nadu vs Punjab; **Men:** Karnataka vs Haryana, Services vs Indian Railway, Punjab vs Uttarakhand, Kerala vs Tamil Nadu. **Results:** Men: Tamil Nadu bt Indian Railway 85-74, Services bt Kerala 88-69, UP bt Gujarat 81-63, Karnataka bt Punjab 90-81. **Women:** Karnataka bt Assam 80-47, Telangana bt Punjab 80-61, Indian Railway bt Kerala 86-73, Tamil Nadu bt Madhya Pradesh 87-63

Railways have walked away with 16 titles and their form suggested a 17th could come their way on Sunday.

While both sides traded leads early on, Railway moved swiftly through the gears to win 86-73. After the match, Shireen Limaye, who has been the India captain for the last few years, said 'we (Railway) were preparing for

this particular match for the last one-and-a-half months'. "This tough fight from Kerala was expected," she said. "I would call this a friendly game because (I'm) really good friends with them (Kerala players)."

Most of the time, though, they team up to play against men's teams when they are in camp at Bengaluru. With inter-

national matches in short supply, they have no option. "We can't help it," she said. "We play a lot of friendlies with men's college and club teams in Bengaluru. We can't really think about what we don't have (international exposure). We have to do with what we have and it's okay."

Karnataka men beat Punjab

Karnataka played some impressive basketball to beat Punjab 90-81 in the Men's Senior National Basketball Championship here on Thursday. Karnataka will meet Haryana in the quarterfinals. Meanwhile Karnataka women's team will meet Kerala in last eight.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer Elec O&M Circle
HESCOM, Vijayapur-586109 Cell:+91 9448370248
Office: 08352 295838, Email ID : seeebp.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437
No:SEE/VJP/REEE(OJTA)-1/22-23/189-200 Date : 06.04.2022

Short Term Tender Notification
(E-procurement mode only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, HESCOM, Vijayapur invites Service tenders (2022-23) for various Services in Vijayapur Circle. The last date for receipt of bid document is **21.04.2022 before 16:00 Hrs** through e-procurement mode only. The detailed bidding documents can be downloaded through e-procurement portal web site <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)
O&M Circle, HESCOM, Vijayapur

DIPR/DWD/MCA/34/2022-23

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ARUVANKADU
THE NILGIRIS-643202

OFFLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADMISSION
प्रवेश हेतु ऑफलाइन पंजीकरण

Website: <https://aruvankadu.kvs.ac.in> Phone: 0423-2230932

Offline Registration form can be collected by the interested parents from the office for admission in class Third, Fourth and Ninth against the vacant seats available, from 08.04.2022 10:00 AM onwards. Completely filled in form may be deposited in the office by 2:00 PM of 16.04.2022. For further details, refer our website.

Invitation of Tender for external colour washing
बाहरी रंगई पुनर्दे हेतु नविनि आमंत्रण

Sealed Tenders in the prescribed form are invited from the reputed registered suppliers to supply items for external colour washing of the Vidyalaya building. Tender document may be collected from the office from 11.04.2022, 10:00 AM onwards on all working days. Bids will be received by the office of KV Aruvankadu up to 02.05.2022 latest by 2:00 PM. The bid shall be opened at 2:30 PM on 02.05.2022. For further details, refer our website: <https://aruvankadu.kvs.ac.in>

प्रचारक/ Prindpal

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, APTIDCO CIRCLE, GUNTUR

E-TENDER NOTICE

Lump Sum Contract Tenders are invited vide Tender Notice No.12/DCTO/GNT/APTIDCO-INFRA-21-22, Dt.07-04-2022 Construction of Providing Water supply, Trunk Infra such as Raw Water Intake Well, Water Treatment Plant ELSRs, Pump Room etc., in the approved Layouts at Jakkampudi of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh under AHP-PMAY-HFA(U) with 2 Years Defect Liability Period under Lump sum contract (Percentage Tender) cum Reverse Tendering

S.No.	NIT No.	ECV Amount (in Rs.)	District
1	12/DCTO/GNT/APTIDCO-INFRA-21-22, Dt.07-04-2022	44,85,31,490.77	New District NTR

The details can be seen in website <http://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. The Dy. Chief Technical Officer, Guntur Circle reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel/postpone any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. Contact No.9701692299.

Sd/- Deputy Chief Technical Officer, APTIDCO, Guntur Circle
DIPR No.1007PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/21-22, Dt.07/04/2022

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RETAIL ASSETS CENTRAL PROCESSING CENTRE-1
Opp. Ramakrishna Ashram,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004
Ph No.080-25943338, 25943336, 25943337
Fax:080- 25943367-25943147, E-mail id: mgracpc.zoban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned against their names with further interest/cost etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The below mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on below mentioned dates.

The borrowers/guarantors and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, for amounts mentioned below with further interest accrued thereon and cost.

The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

1. A/c. No.: YLR/HL/34761256353/4356/HL/616
Name of the borrowers : Sri.Varatharajan Bose S/o. C.Bose and Smt.Sukanya Kamathai W/o.Varatharajan Bose
Demand Notice date:29.11.2021
Outstanding at the time of issue of notice: Rs. 32,95,420/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty only) as on 28.11.2021 and interest & expenses thereon
Paper Publication : "The New Indian Express and Samyuktha Karnataka" on 30.01.2022
Possession Taken date : 06.04.2022
Outstanding Loan amount: Rs.33,13,567/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Seven only) as on 03.04.2022 + interest + expenses thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 302, 'A'Block in the Third Floor, measuring 1405 sq.ft super built up area, containing Three Bed Rooms with RCC Roofing vitrified tiles flooring and Aluminium Windows, together with one car parking space along with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift and staircase in the building known as "Pavani Pleasant", standing in the joint name of Sri.Varatharajan Bose and Smt.Sukanya, 467 sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property bearing Sy.No.144/1, Bruhut Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike Katha No.173/18, measuring 1 acre (Converted vide Official Memorandum dated 11/8/1998, bearing No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(S)210/97-98, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District), situated at Pattandur Agrahara, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and bounded on : East by : Property bearing Sy.No.144/2 of Smt.UshaBasavaraj, West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.144/1, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

2. A/c. No.: YLR/HL/ 64157362535/ 64157362579/ 40406/ 66
Name of the borrower : Sri.Mariyappa S/o.Late Kariyappa
Demand Notice date: 06.11.2021
Outstanding at the time of issue of notice: Rs.10,30,267/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Thirty Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Seven only) as on 03.11.2021 and interest & expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 06.04.2022
Outstanding Loan amount: Rs.10,02,306/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Two Thousand Three Hundred and Six only) as on 03.04.2022 + interest + expenses thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No.15:15:1, situated at Gantakanadoddi Village, Kaggalahalli (Post) HarohalliHobliKanakapura Main Road, KanakapuraTaluk, Ramanagar District, measuring East to West : 64 feet and North to South : (38+42)/2 feet, totally measuring 2560 sq.ft, standing in the name of Sri.Mariyappa and bounded on : East by : Site belongs to Tayemuddamma, West by : House belongs to Puttaiah and Kempamma and passage left to walk, North by : House belongs to Boraiah and Siddappa's site and South by : House belongs to Shivalingaiah and Shivanna.

Place :Bengaluru
Date :06.04.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
RACPC- I Basavanagudi, Bengaluru

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FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction will be held at respective Branches specified below on **Tuesday 19-04-2022 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 080-27830505 FEDGL0080001950, 0001961, 0001965 Arakalagudi 08175-220780 FEDGL00360005466, 0005470, 0005471, 0005497, 0005507, 0005510, 0005511, 0005514, 0005516, 0005517, 0005522, 0005527, 0005538, 0005541, 0005547, 0005556, 0006282, 0006509 B H Road 8162277793 FEDGL0090004191, 0004195, 0004208, 0004217, 0005467 BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 080 4190282 FEDGL0010007130, 0007531, 0008562 BELGAUM 0831-4204817 FEDGL0160001327, 0001392, 0001394, 0002207, 0002231, 0003072 BELUR 08177 22210 FEDGL00390005689, 0005693, 0005698, 0005709, 0005712, 0005714, 0005715, 0005730, 0005736, 0005747, 0005756, 0005758, 0005765, 0006214 BOMMANAHALLI 080 4150047 FEDGL0100051115 BTM LAYOUT 080-41122331 FEDGL0003003922, 0003925, 0003933, 0003940, 0003942, 0003943, 0003944, 0003959 BVDGI 837522022 FEDGL0051004271, 0004282, 0004300, 0004301, 0004304, 0004311, 0004314, 0004316, 0004344, 0004358, 0004362, 0004369, 0004376, 0004380, 0004381, 0004382, 0004383, 0004384, 0004385, 0004386, 0004387, 0004388, 0004389, 0004390, 0004391, 0004392, 0004393, 0004394, 0004395, 0004396, 0004397, 0004398, 0004399, 0004400, 0004401, 0004402, 0004403, 0004404, 0004405, 0004406, 0004407, 0004408, 0004409, 0004410, 0004411, 0004412, 0004413, 0004414, 0004415, 0004416, 0004417, 0004418, 0004419, 0004420, 0004421, 0004422, 0004423, 0004424, 0004425, 0004426, 0004427, 0004428, 0004429, 0004430, 0004431, 0004432, 0004433, 0004434, 0004435, 0004436, 0004437, 0004438, 0004439, 0004440, 0004441, 0004442, 0004443, 0004444, 0004445, 0004446, 0004447, 0004448, 0004449, 0004450, 0004451, 0004452, 0004453, 0004454, 0004455, 0004456, 0004457, 0004458, 0004459, 0004460, 0004461, 0004462, 0004463, 0004464, 0004465, 0004466, 0004467, 0004468, 0004469, 0004470, 0004471, 0004472, 0004473, 0004474, 0004475, 0004476, 0004477, 0004478, 0004479, 0004480, 0004481, 0004482, 0004483, 0004484, 0004485, 0004486, 0004487, 0004488, 0004489, 0004490, 0004491, 0004492, 0004493, 0004494, 0004495, 0004496, 0004497, 0004498, 0004499, 0004500, 0004501, 0004502, 0004503, 0004504, 0004505, 0004506, 0004507, 0004508, 0004509, 0004510, 0004511, 0004512, 0004513, 0004514, 0004515, 0004516, 0004517, 0004518, 0004519, 0004520, 0004521, 0004522, 0004523, 0004524, 0004525, 0004526, 0004527, 0004528, 0004529, 0004530, 0004531, 0004532, 0004533, 0004534, 0004535, 0004536, 0004537, 0004538, 0004539, 0004540, 0004541, 0004542, 0004543, 0004544, 0004545, 0004546, 0004547, 0004548, 0004549, 0004550, 0004551, 0004552, 0004553, 0004554, 0004555, 0004556, 0004557, 0004558, 0004559, 0004560, 0004561, 0004562, 0004563, 0004564, 0004565, 0004566, 0004567, 0004568, 0004569, 0004570, 0004571, 0004572, 0004573, 0004574, 0004575, 0004576, 0004577, 0004578, 0004579, 0004580, 0004581, 0004582, 0004583, 0004584, 0004585, 0004586, 0004587, 0004588, 0004589, 0004590, 0004591, 0004592, 0004593, 0004594, 0004595, 0004596, 0004597, 0004598, 0004599, 0004600, 0004601, 0004602, 0004603, 0004604, 0004605, 0004606, 0004607, 0004608, 0004609, 0004610, 0004611, 0004612, 0004613, 0004614, 0004615, 0004616, 0004617, 0004618, 0004619, 0004620, 0004621, 0004622, 0004623, 0004624, 0004625, 0004626, 0004627, 0004628, 0004629, 0004630, 0004631, 0004632, 0004633, 0004634, 0004635, 0004636, 0004637, 0004638, 0004639, 0004640, 0004641, 0004642, 0004643, 0004644, 0004645, 0004646, 0004647, 0004648, 0004649, 0004650, 0004651, 0004652, 0004653, 0004654, 0004655, 0004656, 0004657, 0004658, 0004659, 0004660, 0004661, 0004662, 0004663, 0004664, 0004665, 0004666, 0004667, 0004668, 0004669, 0004670, 0004671, 0004672, 0004673, 0004674, 0004675, 0004676, 0004677, 0004678, 0004679, 0004680, 0004681, 0004682, 0004683, 0004684, 0004685, 0004686, 0004687, 0004688, 0004689, 0004690, 0004691, 0004692, 0004693, 0004694, 0004695, 0004696, 0004697, 0004698, 0004699, 0004700, 0004701, 0004702, 0004703, 0004704, 0004705, 0004706, 0004707, 0004708, 0004709, 0004710, 0004711, 0004712, 0004713, 0004714, 0004715, 0004716, 0004717, 0004718, 0004719, 0004720, 0004721, 0004722, 0004723, 0004724, 0004725, 0004726, 0004727, 0004728, 0004729, 0004730, 0004731, 0004732, 0004733, 0004734, 0004735, 0004736, 0004737, 0004738, 0004739, 0004740, 0004741, 0004742, 0004743, 0004744, 0004745, 0004746, 0004747, 0004748, 0004749, 0004750, 0004751, 0004752, 0004753, 0004754, 0004755, 0004756, 0004757, 0004758, 0004759, 0004760, 0004761, 0004762, 0004763, 0004764, 0004765, 0004766, 0004767, 0004768, 0004769, 0004770, 0004771, 0004772, 0004773, 0004774, 0004775, 0004776, 0004777, 0004778, 0004779, 0004780, 0004781, 0004782, 0004783, 0004784, 0004785, 0004786, 0004787, 0004788, 0004789, 0004790, 0004791, 0004792, 0004793, 0004794, 0004795, 0004796, 0004797, 0004798, 0004799, 0004800, 0004801, 0004802, 0004803, 0004804, 0004805, 0004806, 0004807, 0004808, 0004809, 0004810, 0004811, 0004812, 000481



The United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will on Thursday call for increased oversight of cryptocurrencies, after President Joe Biden last month green-lit work on creating a digital American dollar



Thailand on Wednesday banned styrofoam packaging and single-use plastics from national parks as it fights the waste that threatens wildlife. Covid has brought a surge in plastic waste as demand for takeaway food grows

Companies race to crowd satellite internet space

Amazon has sealed deals to get its \$10 bn Kuiper project off the ground

TECHNOLOGY

COLORADO SPRINGS: Though satellite internet has existed for years, the competition is about to rapidly intensify with companies planning to launch thousands of their own systems into low Earth orbit.

The latest move in the industry came on Tuesday from Amazon, which took a major step towards getting its \$10 billion Kuiper constellation off the ground by sealing deals with three rocket companies.

America's online retail giant wants to strengthen its lucrative diversification into IT services, and "provide low-latency broadband to a wide range of customers," including those "working in areas without a reliable internet connection."

"Satellite solutions are an indispensable complement to fibre," said Stephane Israel, who is the chief executive of Arianespace, one of the Amazon rocket providers.

"There are situations in which fibre is much too expensive compared to satellite connections, especially to reach the last inhabitant of a remote area," he explained.

In addition to the satellites themselves, Amazon plans "small, affordable client terminals" along the lines of Echo smart-homes and Kindle e-readers, and promises to "provide service at a price that is affordable and accessible to customers," with no further pricing details immediately.

Will Amazon be able to break through the increasingly crowded market?

Satellite internet already exists: US customers have access to HughesNet and Viasat, while in Europe, Orange subsidiary



Prominent players on the space odyssey

Amazon plans for 3,200 satellites

Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, has around 1,500 already active and thousands in pipeline

British company OneWeb has launched 428 of the 648 satellites

China plans to deploy around 13,000 "GuoWang" satellites

Nordnet—among others—uses the power of the Eutelsat Konnect satellite to offer broadband to its customers.

Costs that arise for the users start under \$70 per month, excluding prices of terminal and antenna, and increase according to the bandwidth.

But because these services use satellites at geostationary orbit—more than 35,000 kilometres from Earth's surface—their speed cannot match that of fibre, prohibiting use for high-speed tasks like gaming.

Amazon's future satellites, like those already launched by the company Starlink, a subsidiary of Elon Musk's SpaceX, will operate in the low Earth

orbit (LEO), only 600 kilometres high.

Low orbit more vulnerable

"The advantage of LEO is that you reduce the latency, (and) by reducing the latency you maximise the uses," said Israel.

On the other hand, being closer to Earth makes it necessary to send many more spacecraft into orbit: more than 3,200 for Amazon, and thousands for Starlink, of which around 1,500 are already active.

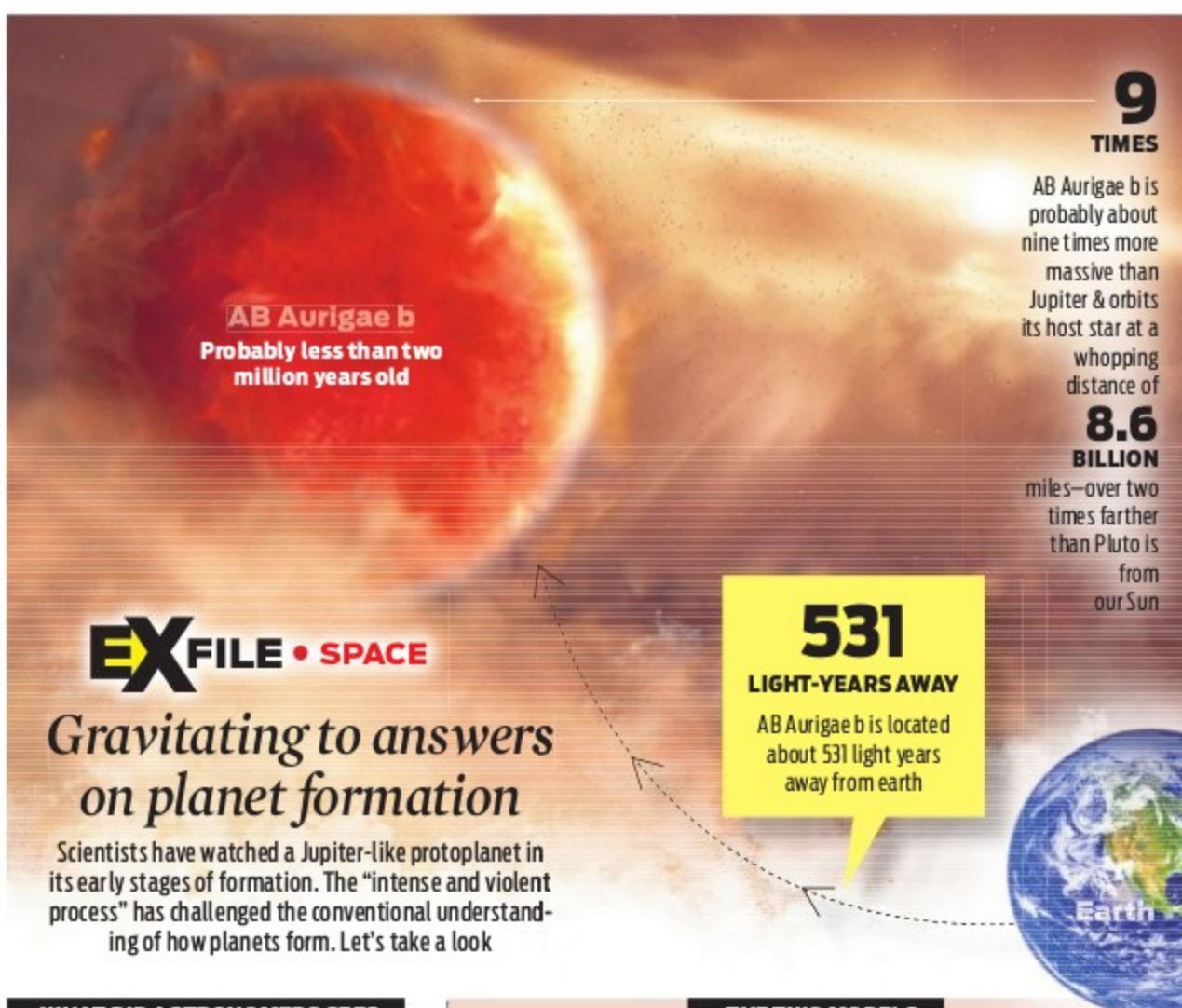
British company OneWeb has launched 428 of the 648 satellites in its LEO constellation, and China plans to deploy around 13,000 "GuoWang" satellites. Beyond the issues of national competition, the rapid expansion responds to an equally growing need.

In late March, the United Nations' International Telecommunication Union remarked that "once considered a luxury, internet connectivity became crucial for many during the pandemic as populations faced stay-at-home orders and many practices moved online."

"The need for bandwidth has skyrocketed around the world, and we will never launch enough satellites to meet the demand," predicts an executive AFP met on the sidelines of the world's biggest space technology trade show.

But the bandwidth marketing specialist, also noted that low-orbiting spacecraft are far more vulnerable than geostationary ones, as demonstrated by the recent loss of dozens of Starlinks after a magnetic storm struck.

As a result, "they will have to be constantly replaced." The rocket companies will not mind that.



WHAT DID ASTRONOMERS SEE?

The newly forming planet, called AB Aurigae b, is embedded in what astronomers called a circumstellar disk of dust and gas with a distinct spiral structure swirling around a young star, probably less than two million years old

WHAT ARE PROTOPLANETS?

They are planets in their early stages of formation

WHAT IS A CIRCUMSTELLAR DISK?

A rotating disc of dense gas and dust that surrounds a newly-formed star. All planets are made from material that originated in a circumstellar disk

THE TWO MODELS

There are 2 theories on how planets like Jupiter form. This latest discovery with AB Aurigae b supports the long-debated "disc instability" theory

1 One is core accretion, model which suggests that planets form when small objects, with sizes similar to that of dust grains to huge boulders, collide and stick together as they orbit a star. The other is the disc instability model. As per this model, the circumstellar disk around a star cools and gravity causes it to fragment into massive clumps that later form planets

2 In other words, as Alan Boss of the Carnegie Institution of Science in Washington put it: "In the end, gravity is all that counts, as the leftovers of the star-formation process will end up being pulled together by gravity to form planets, one way or the other." Core accretion model has dominated the study of planet formation whereas the disc instability model is of recent origin

An understanding of how Jupiter-like planets form helps us to study our solar system. NASA hopes to conduct studies of the chemical make-up of AB Aurigae b with its James Webb Space Telescope



Climate-related health issues on the rise in Africa: WHO

ENVIRONMENT

BRAZZAVILLE: Climate-related health emergencies are on the rise in Africa, though the continent contributes the least to global warming, the WHO said on Wednesday.

According to new WHO analysis such climate-related health emergencies account for "more than half of public health events recorded in the region over the past two decades," its regional bureau said.

Of the public health events recorded throughout Africa between 2001 and 2021, 56 per cent were climate-related, the UN health agency said.

In Africa, "frequent floods, water- and vector-borne diseases are deepening health crises," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's regional director for Africa.

"Although the continent contributes the least to global warming, it bears the full consequences," she added.

On Thursday the WHO celebrates World Health Day, with this year's theme "Our Planet, Our Health". WHO is calling on governments to "prioritise human well-being in all key decisions, stop new fossil fuel explorations and subsidies, tax polluters and implement its air quality guidelines".

In Africa "diarrhoeal diseases are the third leading cause of disease and death in under-five children," the WHO said.

Zoos hide birds as flu spreads



Zoos across North America are moving their birds indoors and away from people and wildlife as they try to protect them from the highly contagious and potentially deadly avian influenza. Penguins may be the only birds visitors to many zoos can see right now, because they already are kept inside and usually protected behind glass in their exhibits, making it harder for the bird flu to reach them. Nearly 23 million chickens and turkeys have already been killed across the US to limit the spread of the virus, and zoos are working hard to prevent any of their birds from meeting the same fate. It would be especially upsetting for zoos to have to kill any of the endangered or threatened species in their care.

Covid increases risk of blood clots: Study

HEALTH

PARIS: People who have had Covid-19 have an increased risk of developing serious blood clots for up to six months after getting infected, even in mild cases, a study said Thursday.

Previous research has indicated that Covid raises the risk of blood clots, but the new study in *The BMJ* medical journal shows how long the threat can linger

To find out, researchers compared data from more than a million people in Sweden's national registries who contracted Covid from February 2020 to May 2021, with a control groups of over four million who did not test positive.

They found that those with Covid had a higher risk of pulmonary embolism, a blood clot that blocks arteries in lungs, up to six months after infection.

There was also an increased danger of deep vein thrombosis—a blood clot normally in legs—up to three months after contracting Covid.

After adjusting for a range of factors, they found a 33-fold increase in the risk of pulmonary embolism for those who had Covid, as well as a five-fold rise for deep vein thrombosis.

Among people who suffered severe symptoms from Covid-19 pandemic, those with pre-existing conditions were more at risk, the study found. But even people who had mild cases that did not need hospitalisation had a higher danger of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No: OCPL/SER-134/2022 Date: 08/04/2022

Sealed bids in prescribed format are invited from Companies / agencies / OEMs for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Cost of Tender Paper	BID Security	Issue of Tender Document	Last date of Sale of Tender Document	Last date of Submission/ Opening of bid
1	Supply and Installation of Fully Automatic Truck Mounted Fog Cannon at Manoharpur Coal Mines, Sundergarh, Odisha	Rs.5,900/- (Rupees Five Thousand and Nine Hundred Only) including GST.	Rs.85,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Thousand Only).	08/04/2022	22/04/2022	03:00 PM on 30/04/2022 03:30 PM on 30/04/2022

For further details, bidders may visit our website, i.e www.ocpl.org.in. Any clarification may please be addressed to the undersigned at the above address or by email to: contracts@ocpl.org.in

Sd/-
General Manager (C & CA)

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR-591 115 DT: BELAGAVI
Phone No 08288-234610, 234202, 9538035429

No: KRCRSSG/DORMS/ELEVATORS/2022-23 Date: 07/04/2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls at Kittur Dist Belagavi, invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders, Registered Manufacturers of Elevators, in two cover system, technical and financial bids in separate covers for supply and installation at KRCRSSG Kittur -591115. Dist: Belagavi. State Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Name of work	EMD in Rs.	Eligibility criteria	Cost of blank tender forms	Time Limit for supply
1	Supply, Installation Testing & Commissioning of (8 Passengers) Elevators -2 Nos. Dormitory No.1 & 2	60,000/-	Track record of installing Elevators in public sector, Educational institutions and large scale Hospitals in and around Belagavi with service centre at Belagavi/ Hubballi or a place located within range of 200 Km around Kittur.	Rs.3000/-	2 Months

1. The tender shall be accompanied with EMD in the form of DD from any nationalized bank, payable in favor of Principal Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls Kittur, at Kittur.

2. Technical bid not complete in all respects, will be rejected and such contractor's financial bids will not be opened.

3. Technical bids and financial Bids shall be placed in separate covers super scribed as "Technical Bid" (with EMD), OR "Financial Bid" for Elevators.

4. If prescribed EMD in the form of DD is not placed at the opening of technical bid, it amounts to rejection of the Tender.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1. Tender documents shall be issued from: 08-04-2022 to 17.04.2022 up to 4.00 PM

2. Last Date for submission of completed Tender: 18.04.2022 up to 4.00 PM

3. Opening of Technical bids on: 19.04.2022 at 11.00 AM

Further details may be obtained during office hours on working days The School Management reserves the right to alter, modify, withdraw part or full items of the tender without assigning any reason what so ever and the decision of the Management will be final.

Sd/-Col R. S. Khatri (Retd) Sd/- Sri Mahantesh S. Koujalgi MLA Sd/-Dr. Mahendra Kanthi, PhD
PRINCIPAL MEMBER SECRETARY CHAIRMAN KRCMC

The Indian Railways will become the growth engine of the nation's 'Vikas Yatra'.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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By

Araga Jnanendra
Minister for Home & District In-charge Minister of Tumakuru Govt. of Karnataka

G. S. Basavaraj
Member of Parliament, Tumakuru

8.4.2022 | 10:45 AM | Tumakuru Railway Station

You are cordially invited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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